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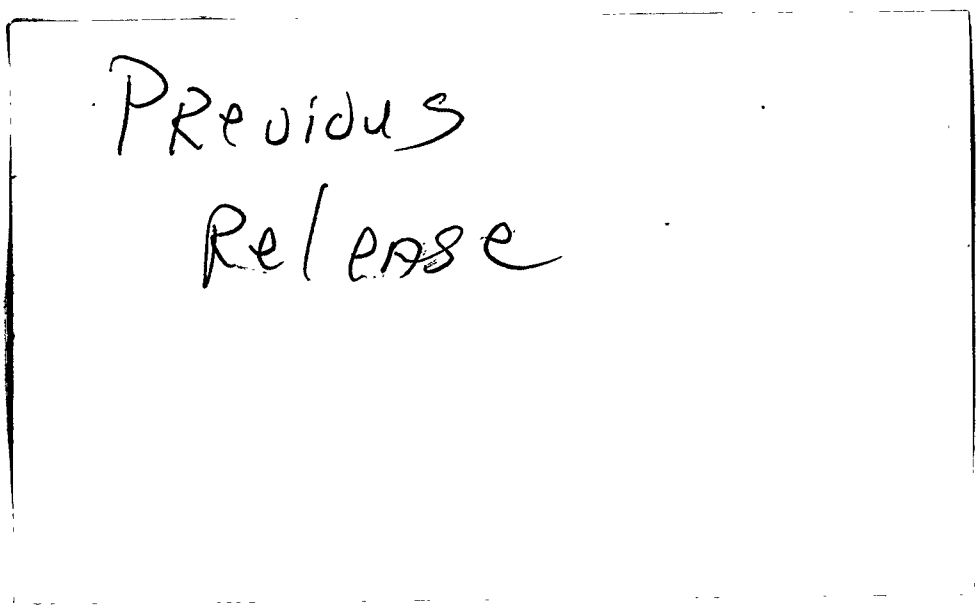
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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Felt
Bates
Bishop
Callahan
Campbell
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Ponder
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 8-8-72

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: SERGEY NIKOLAYOVICH KURDAKOV
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

[redacted] Secretary to Congressman Earl F. Landgrebe (R-Ind.), telephonically contacted Inspector Bowers on 8-7-72 and stated the Congressman had been requested to sponsor special legislation to provide for permanent residence for captioned individual whom she described as a Soviet National who was a radio operator on a Soviet ship which he had abandoned and swam ashore in Canada in 1971. She said the Congressman had received information indicating the FBI has some knowledge of subject and the Congressman would like to have the benefit of whatever information we could furnish him for his guidance in deciding whether or not to sponsor this special legislation. She was advised a check would be made and she would be contacted as soon as possible. Our relationship with Congressman Landgrebe has been cordial in the past.

Washington Field Office under date of 8-8-72 has submitted a memorandum and letterhead memorandum concerning subject. This reveals subject was interviewed by an Agent of the Washington Field Office on 8-2-72 at the request of the subject, the request having come through John Broger, Director of Information, Armed Forces. Broger indicated subject is associated with an international Christian organization with which Broger also has some affiliation. Subject, during interview, stated he was born 3-1-51 in the Soviet Union and that he had jumped from the Soviet trawler "Shturman Yelagin" and swam ashore near Vancouver, British Columbia. He said his visit to the United States was under the auspices of "Underground Evangelism" and that he plans to tour the United States to give speeches and meet influential individuals to publicize a forthcoming book based on his experiences under communism as contrasted with life in the free world. He said his purpose in contacting the FBI was to determine if the FBI might restrict his activities in the U. S. He was told the FBI would impose no restrictions and that his activities would be subject to the laws of the country as any other resident. He asked if the FBI could afford him protection, saying threats had been made against him in Canada and he was told the FBI provides no protective services. He commented he would like to coordinate his philosophy and work against communism with an organization like the FBI.

REC-30 [redacted]

1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Miller
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
1 - Mr. Bowers

16 AUG 29 1972

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DATE 1-22-01 BY 39063 SEL/BEP/DC

b7E

DWB:kjs (6)

CONTINUED - OVER

61 [redacted]

M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo
RE: SERGEY NIKOLAYOVICH KURDAKOV

This is the only contact the FBI has had with subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That [redacted] be advised the FBI has no information concerning captioned individual except that which he has furnished us and that she be referred to the Immigration and Naturalization Service which is the agency responsible for aliens in this country.

b6
b7C

Was

DEM

Dwb TEB/HAV

EM

Handled with
8-10-72
Dwb

b6
b7C

ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 8/8/72 (U)

SAC, WFO [redacted] (U)

b7E

Previous Release

SERGEY NIKOLAYOVICH KURDAKOV
IS - R
(OO:WFO)

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM, dated and captioned as above, setting out details of interview of captioned subject on 8/2/72.

LHM is ~~classified "Secret"~~ because it relates to the activities of a Soviet defector, the disclosure of which could cause serious damage to the nation.

Subject was interviewed by SA [redacted] at the Pentagon, arrangements for which were effected through Mr. JOHN BROGER, Director of Information, Armed Forces. It is noted that BROGER indicated he has some affiliation with the same religious organization as subject, and in such capacity desired to make subject available for interview [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

It is further noted that interview of subject, conducted partially in Russian, determined that [redacted] however, he was furnished the identity and office telephone number of the interviewing Special Agent to advise of any contacts with Soviet or Soviet-bloc nationals while in the U.S. (U)

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2- Bureau (Enc. 5)
1- WFO

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(3)

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SECRET (U)

Washington, D. C. 20535
August 8, 1972

SERGEY NIKOLAYOVICH KURDAKOV
INTERNAL SECURITY-R

Sergey Nikolayovich Kurdakov was interviewed at his request by a Special Agent of the FBI on August 2, 1972.

Subject related he is a Soviet national, born March 1, 1951, in Novosibirsk, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), who jumped ship while serving as a radio operator on the Soviet trawler "Shturman Yelagin" in 1971 and swam ashore in the area of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He stated his visit to the United States was under the auspices of "Underground Evangelism," an international Christian organization dedicated to the promotion of Christian philosophy, and that he would be touring the United States in order to give speeches, meet with influential citizens and government leaders, and publicize a forthcoming book based on his experiences under Communism as contrasted with life in the free world.

Kurdakov advised his purpose in establishing contact with the FBI was to determine if the FBI might restrict his activities in the United States in regard to his espousing of Christian ideals. He was assured that the FBI would impose no such restrictions and that his activities would only be subject to the same federal, state and local laws as those of any individual in the United States. Subject also inquired if the FBI might afford him protection while in the United States, citing the fact that threats had been made against him in Canada. He was advised that the FBI does not provide protective services to private individuals and that if direct or indirect threats are made against his person, he should report same to the appropriate local police authorities. Subject concluded by saying that he wished to coordinate his philosophy and work against Communism in the United States with an organization like the FBI.

DECLASSIFIED BY [illegible] ON 1-22-91

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the [illegible] It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

5- Bureau
(1) WFO [redacted]

JVW:kvn
(6)

SECRET (U)
ENCLOSURE

[redacted]

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GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

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TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 8/8/72

FROM : SAC, WFO [redacted] (2)

SUBJECT: SERGEY NIKOLAYOVICH KURDAKOV
IS - R
(OO:WFO)

aka, SERGEY Kurdakov

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM, dated and captioned as above, setting out details of interview of captioned subject on 8/2/72.

LHM is ~~classified "Secret"~~ because it relates to the activities of a Soviet defector, the disclosure of which could cause serious damage to the nation.

Subject was interviewed by SA [redacted] at the Pentagon, arrangements for which were effected through Mr. JOHN BROGER, Director of Information, Armed Forces. It is noted that BROGER indicated he has some affiliation with the same religious organization as subject, and in such capacity desired to make subject available for interview [redacted]

It is further noted that interview of subject conducted partially in Russian, determined that [redacted] however, he was furnished the identity and office telephone number of the interviewing Special Agent to advise of any contacts with Soviet or Soviet bloc nationals while in the U.S. (U) [redacted]

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REC-70 3706351 w/bc

EX-117

6 AUG 9 1972

(2) Bureau (Enc. 5)
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JVW:kvn
(3)

5 SEP 5 1972

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To: [X] Director

Date 8/2/72

Att.: _____ FILE _____

Title MOSNAT

- [ ] SAC _____
- [ ] ASAC _____
- [ ] Supv. _____ Sergey Nikolayevich
- [ ] Agent _____ Kurdakov
- [ ] SE _____
- [ ] IC _____
- [ ] CC _____
- [ ] Steno _____
- [ ] Clerk _____

RE: _____

[ ] Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

- [ ] Acknowledge
- [ ] Assign ____ Reassign ____
- [ ] Bring file
- [ ] Call me
- [ ] Correct
- [ ] Deadline _____
- [ ] Deadline passed
- [ ] Delinquent
- [ ] Discontinue
- [ ] Expedite
- [ ] File
- [ ] For information
- [ ] Handle
- [ ] Initial & return
- [ ] Leads need attention
- [ ] Return with explanation or notation as to action taken
- [ ] Open Case
- [ ] Prepare lead cards
- [ ] Prepare tickler
- [ ] Return assignment card
- [ ] Return file
- [ ] Search and return
- [ ] See m
- [ ] Serial
- [ ] Post [ ] Recharge [ ] Return
- [ ] Send to
- [ ] Submit new charge out
- [ ] Submit report by
- [ ] Type

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AUG 2 1972
FBI—MINNEAPOLIS

MCT-19

NOT RECORDED
16 AUG 30 1972

b7E

b6
b7C

I-94 attached

ENCLOSURE

ESPIONAGE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-01 BY 3904e3 [illegible]

SAC RICHARD G. HELD

Office Minneapolis

b7E

GPO : 1971 421-419

61 SEP 0 1972

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 2, 1972

For Your Information as required by 8 CFR 212 and O.I. 235.

KOURDAKOV, Serge N.

Family Name (Capital Letters) KOURDAKOV	First Name Serge	Middle Initial N
Country of Citizenship USSR	Passport or Alien Registration Number Gateway, NC 5W330	
* United States Address (Number, Street, City and State) Evangelism Center	1332 Glendale Ave Glendale, California	
* * Airline and Flight No. or Vessel of Arrival Auto	* * Passenger Boarded at 212(d)(3)(A)(ii) Calgary	
Number, Street, City, Province (State) and Country of Permanent Residence RR#2 Balzac, Alberta, Canada		
Month, Day and Year of Birth March 1 1951		
City, Province (State) and Country of Birth Novosibirsk USSR		
Visa Issued at Calgary Alb't Canada		
Month, Day and Year Visa Issued July 1972		

Russian Crewman - Jumped ship in September, 1971 at Quebec City, Quebec. Granted landed immigrant status September 22, 1971. Admitted this date destined to Winona Lake, Indiana for two days to attend Evangelist meeting. Then to Evangelism Center, Glendale, Cal. to give lectures on evangelism. Claims converted from Communism to Christianity in September 1971.

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-01 BY 3408 Elw/bcp

b6
b7C

[redacted]
Supervisory Immigrant Inspector
Portal, North Dakota
July 25, 1972

b7E

[redacted]

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1 - Indianapolis
1 - Los Angeles
1 - New York
1 - Minneapolis

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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b6
b7C

September 15, 1972

[redacted] b6 b7C

Honorable L. Patrick Gray
Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

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DATE 1-22-01 BY 34063 dlw/REC/DK

Dear Mr. Gray:

Several individuals have contacted me in behalf of Sergei Kourdakov, an escapee from Russia, who desires to become a United States citizen.

I thought perhaps your office might have a file on this young man and could provide counsel and advice which would assist me in determining what steps, if any, I should pursue to be helpful to this individual.

July 1972

The enclosed copy of an article from Guideposts regarding Sergei Kourdakov's escape may be of interest to you.

With kind regards, I am

Truly,

Jennings Randolph

Jennings Randolph
(D - W. Va.)

ENCLOSURE

REC-46

EX-117

[redacted] b7E

3 SEP 27 1972

S-T and Randolph 9-21-72

SIJJH

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A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING / JULY 1972

Guideposts

The dramatic story of a young Russian's journey to a new life and faith.

Escape to Freedom

by SERGEI KOURDAKOV

I hesitated at the rail of the plunging trawler and wondered, What impels a man to jump from his

(See page 3)

ENCLOSURE

GUIDEPOSTS, CARMEL, N. Y. 10512

GUIDEPOSTS is written for and by people of all faiths. Its purpose: to show, by inspirational personal experiences, how men and women from all walks of life have found strength, courage and hope through their belief in God. Its goal: to point the way to deeper faith, more creative living.

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(Continued from cover)

warm safe ship into a stormy ocean thousands of miles from home?

Freedom? I had material freedom in the motherland, Russia, where at 19 I was attending a Soviet naval academy. Future? As secretary of the Communist Youth League, my success was assured.

What was it then that made me want to escape? Could it be that strange light in the eyes of the old woman I had been about to strike that awful night so many months ago? I trembled as I again saw her quiet upturned face. Then gripping the ship's cold rail, I prepared to vault over it, into the dark churning waters below.

One thing I knew: No family would grieve for me. My father, an NKVD officer under Stalin, had been shot when Khrushchev took over. My mother died a few months later. I was then age four and became a child of the state in an orphanage near Novosibirsk in western Siberia.

Nursed on Marxism, my religion was communism. Our savior? Lenin. Three times I lined up in Red Square to pay homage to his mummified body.

After entering the naval academy near Vladivostok, I became a champion swimmer, weight lifter, and an expert at beating up people who held illegal meetings.

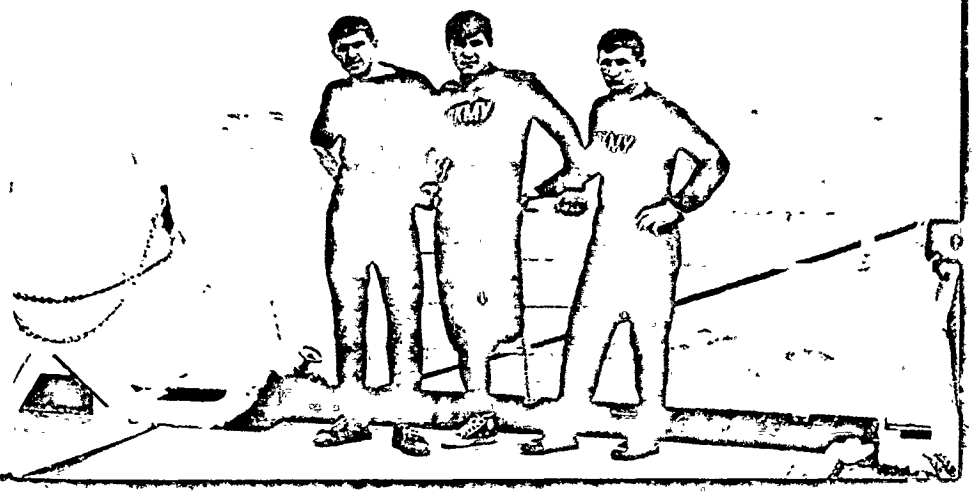
These people, who called themselves Christians, were tolerated by the government if they held their meetings under state supervision. But they had this strange habit of secretly gathering in homes, barns, even out in the forest.

And, of course, through police intelligence we always knew where they would gather.

A number of us big fellows at the naval school were paid by the local police as "volunteers" to break up these meetings. Thus the action was not "official" but "of the people."

And it was fun. When alerted to a "secret" meeting, we'd get together, laughing and joking. We'd each down a liter of vodka, pick

Only one year ago, young Sergei Kourdakov (left) was a Soviet naval cadet training aboard a Russian vessel. Limited in English, Sergei was helped with his story by Richard Schneider.



up heavy police truncheons and head for the gathering.

After breaking through the door, we'd grab the Bibles and hand-written hymnals and rip them up. Any cry of protest was our excuse to wade into the people with truncheons flying. After all, they had broken the law and were enemies of the state.

The police told us, "Faith will fly out of their heads when they see your stick."

But I never forgot Natasha, a blue-eyed blonde of about 18 with long flowing hair. We found her in a worship meeting in the little town of Petropavlovsk. One of our group, Viktor, was a giant whose arms seemed the girth of telephone poles. He picked up Natasha by her hair and threw her out the door.

"It would have been nicer to have been friends with her," he laughed.

A week later on nearby Nagornaia Street we made another raid. And there she was! We beat her so hard with truncheons that we boasted, "She won't be able to sit down for a week!"

Three days later we found her again at another meeting. We just ignored her. What can you do with someone like that?

After the raids, we'd haul the literature to the police station where we'd burn it in a potbelly stove.

I don't know what made me do it. Perhaps it was remembering Natasha and wondering what it was that made these people so stubborn. As I shoved the literature into the stove, I slipped a booklet into my pocket.

Later I read it in a quiet corner at school. It was a hand-written copy of the Gospel of Luke. In it I read about a young man who'd turned on his father, and ran off to a far country where he squandered himself. Yet, when he crawled home, his father welcomed and kissed him!

As I read on, I was flooded with a strange emotion—part disbelief but mingled with it, a fascination with what this book called love. Something within me was touched and I trembled. I sensed this wasn't a human philosophy but something far greater. I felt like a man who'd spent all his days in a cave and had finally staggered out to see the sun for the first time. I compared the love this God had for us with the coldness and materialism in which I'd been living.

I tore the book into shreds.

On our next raid I followed through mechanically. As I raised my truncheon at an old woman, she said something. I hesitated and heard her praying: "Oh, Lord, save this young man." Someone or something held my arm and I spun around; there was no one there! I dropped the club and left the melee in a daze, remembering nothing until I was five kilometers away. I went to the police director and told him I was through with the activist group.

He didn't say much. But three days later I was called before a Party meeting for unseemly behavior. They dressed me down but let me off lightly since I was secretary of one of the largest Communist youth groups in Siberia. They

Sergei shows spot near British Columbia where he made his daring jump from a Russian fishing ship.

said I was young and would "rethink."

I rethought all right. And the more I thought, the more disillusioned I became. Here, innocent people were being persecuted only because they believed in something that Marxism could never offer. As I looked around with new eyes, I began to see that what our leaders promised and what was reality never seemed to match. It was a repressive system, and despite the lofty ideals of the revolution, it didn't practice what it talked.

I felt I could no longer exist under these conditions and made my decision to leave. I studied different escape routes. Swim under the Tisza River from the Ukraine to Hungary? Cross the mountains at the Turkish border? None offered much hope.

Then I thought of the government trawler fleet. At school I'd achieved the rank of lieutenant. Thus I was able to arrange a six months' work experience for me as a radio operator on a trawler.

On a cold misty April morning I stood at the rail of the *USSR Kolivajn* as our fishing fleet filed out of Petropavlovsk harbor. For six months we harvested the Pacific, from the Bering Sea to Hawaii to California. One night off Los Angeles I thought seriously of leaving the ship, but the news about the Lithuanian sailor who'd jumped a Soviet ship only to be returned by the American Coast Guard had been effectively drummed into us.

As we moved north into Canadian waters, a tremendous storm began to lash our fleet. We radioed Canadian authorities and received permission to shelter in the lee of the Queen Charlotte Islands off the coast of British Columbia.

It was 9:45 Friday night, September 3, 1971, when I closed the radio-room door behind me for the last time. Through the mist I could make out the outline of mountains on the horizon. I estimated the shore at three miles away. I was alone on deck. This was the time.

I swung over the rail and dived

into the blackness. Confident in my swimming ability, I wore no life jacket; its bulk would only slow me down. In the cold foaming waters I cut off my sweater and slashed off my pants legs with a knife lashed to my wrist. Then, sinking into the quiet deep below the waves, I pulled off my boots.

After struggling to the roaring surface, I struck out toward what I thought was shore. It was frightening. I would climb one soaring crest only to be buried by another crashing on me. After two hours, a dark shape loomed above me. When I made out what it was, I became sick with shock. It was my ship! I had been swimming in a circle.

My first thought was to give myself up. I couldn't go on any longer. But at that moment, the clouds broke, the night sky lightened and I could see the whole line of our trawlers, their bows all pointed toward shore.

Now I knew where to head.

I struck out again. But after two more hours of fighting waves, I weakened and started cramping. As I choked and gasped, my arms became leaden and I began to sink into the dark depths. I would drown now.

I did not turn to Karl Marx.

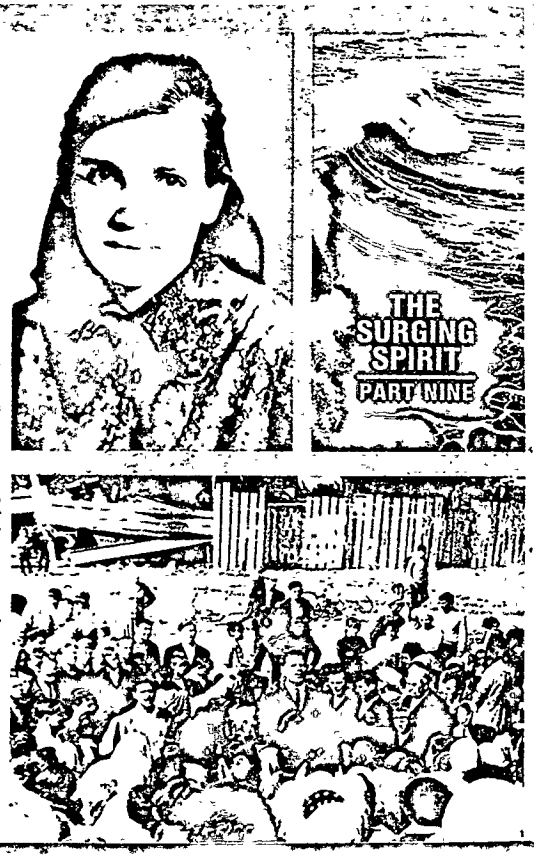
Instead, as the water closed over my head, I realized there was another world beyond this one, a world divided between heaven and hell. Something from deep within me cried out: "God . . . if You really are . . . if You do exist . . . and I feel sure You do . . . when my body drowns, take my soul into paradise with You."

As I relinquished myself to Him, something happened within me. New strength, new courage flowed into my heart. I did not feel alone anymore. I struggled upward, broke water, and began swimming again, using the same powerful stroke that earned me a school swimming award.

After a while a new sound grew in intensity, the crashing of giant breakers. As I looked up, jagged rocks awaited me. But a wave carried me into an inlet where I tumbled onto the shore.

It was about six o'clock in the morning and the sun was coming up over a new land before me. As its rays began to warm me, I gave thanks to Him Who brought me here.

And you, Babushka Grandmother —you who prayed for me as I was about to strike you—I think of you often, as I do all the other brave Christians who serve God in



The Unquenchable Fire

by RICHARD SCHNEIDER
Guideposts Senior Editor

Above: A recent photograph of Aida Skripnikova. Below: Soviet Christians hold worship service.

The surging power of the Holy Spirit is touching the lives of many like Sergei Kourdakov in countries behind the Iron Curtain.

It pierces this Curtain in strangely protected ways through smuggled Bibles and tracts plus radio programs. And its fire is spread through Christian fellowship groups that even meet in moving autos which cannot be bugged.

And it speaks through surprising voices. World-famed Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote a "Lenten letter" last spring which described the Russian Orthodox Church as "a church dictatorially directed by atheists." Thus he became the first Soviet citizen of international stature to openly demand religious freedom for Russia's estimated 60 million Orthodox Christians.

Solzhenitsyn dreams of building a church in Russia with the $79,000 Nobel Prize award he earned in 1970. To date, Soviet authorities have refused to allow him to receive the money while at the same time his writings remain banned.

Yet where Christianity is suppressed, it seems to burn the hotter as it did nearly 2,000 years ago in the catacombs and arenas. Declaring that religious belief is "a dangerously reactionary outlook on life," Communist propaganda today is aimed at Russian youth "untouched by this relic from the past." Yet, these young people can be found at Christian underground meetings such as those attended by the teen-ager Natasha whose defiant reappearances, despite beatings, made Sergei Kourdakov wonder "what it was that made these people so stubborn."

Guideposts first learned about

my motherland. Now I know why you do what you do. And I pray that He continues to sustain you. For if your prayers can touch a person like me, then surely you will bring many others to the Lord Jesus Christ in Whom I know that my motherland will find freedom, true freedom at last.

Editor's note: After his first landing, Sergei spent many hours trying to find civilization, during which he climbed a high cliff, fell and was gashed by rocks, then swam two miles across a bay to the town of Tasu where he collapsed unconscious on the beach. He was found, just as the tide was coming in, by a girl who usually didn't walk this way "Except something told me to take this path that morning." After hospitalization and a month's internment by the Canadian government, he moved to Toronto's Russian community where he was baptized in the First Ukrainian Pentecostal church. He has already been active in Christian work there, including participation in a radio ministry to his former homeland.

(Continued from page 7)

Kourdakov from Earl Poysti, director of the Russian Radio Ministry of the Pocket Testament League. Poysti, Russian-born, but now a U.S citizen, produces radio programs which beam the Gospel through the Iron Curtain via high-powered transmitters. Through his work, he has developed many contacts with Soviet Christians.

One of these is Aida Skripnikova whose Guideposts story in July, 1970, told of her courageous stand for Jesus Christ and her protest against the oppression of Christians. On April 12, 1968, at the age of 25, she was imprisoned in a concentration camp outside of Moscow. When she formed a prayer group in prison, she was placed for a time in solitary confinement.

Where is Aida now?

From Earl Poysti we learned that she was released on April 12, 1971, and is now living in the Russian city of Ivanovo. Did the ordeal diminish her faith?

"On the contrary," reports Poysti, "she emerged from prison with her faith stronger than ever." She sends her gratitude to all of those who "cared and prayed for us" and asks continued prayers "for us all."

While in prison, Aida, an artist as well as a poet, would have hand-drawn greeting cards sent out. Each carried a message of encouragement for her friends. Her Easter 1970 greeting was emblazoned with a bouquet of flowers surrounded by a barbed-wire barrier. Written on the card was her answer to captivity:

No, I am not sorry about what was.
And that what is, my spirit does not fear.
The love of Christ has blessed me on this path
And on this path is such a power
Which all the world cannot destroy.
Aida

The Brennans at home in Moore Park, California.

My wife Ruth and I have always had chickens around our place, and a long time ago I learned something important about them. If you help the chick out of its shell when it's hatching, it's going to be too weak to survive. It's the struggle that develops its muscles.

I believe it's the same way with us humans: It's the struggles in our lives that develop strength. Not just the muscle-strength that chickens need, but the things that make human life strong. Gratitude and perseverance and faith in God.

It's why I'm glad, looking back, that I didn't know any big shots in Hollywood when I came out here after World War I. No one to open doors. No one to crack that shell for me. I got into pictures the hard way—as an extra. Year in, year out I hung around the studios, made the rounds of casting agencies, waited for the call-backs that never came.

I don't mean it wasn't painful while I was going through it—struggle generally is. A good many times during those years, Ruth fed

September 21, 1972

EX-117
REC-48

[redacted]

b7E

Honorable Jennings Randolph
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-01 BY 34063 Elw/BE/JSK

Dear Senator Randolph:

Since the Immigration and Naturalization Service is the agency responsible for aliens in this country, I am forwarding a copy of your September 15th communication and of this reply to the Commissioner of that agency for whatever assistance he can give you.

MAILED 20
[illegible] 1972
FBI

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

1 - Pittsburgh - Enclosure
1 - Administrative Review Unit - Enclosure (detached)
NOTE: Senator Randolph is on the Special Correspondents List. Bufiles indicate Kourdakov was interviewed by an Agent of the Washington Field Office per his request. He advised that his visit to the U. S. was under the auspices of "Underground Evangelism" and that he plans to tour the United States to give speeches and meet influential individuals to publicize a forthcoming book based on his experiences under communism as contrasted with life in the free world. He said his purpose in contacting the FBI was to determine if the FBI might restrict his activities in the U. S. He was told the FBI would impose no restrictions and that his activities would be subject to the laws of the country as any other resident. He asked if the FBI could afford him

JJH:dlf (6)

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

54 OCT 3 1972

Felt
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Conrad
Dalbey
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Ponder
Soyars
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Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Honorable Jennings Randolph

NOTE CONTINUED: protection, saying threats had been made against him in Canada and he was told the FBI provides no protective services. He commented he would like to coordinate his philosophy and work against communism with an organization like the FBI.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-17-2014 by: J75J65T61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

September 27, 1972

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SERGEI KOURDAKOV
[INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIAN] Ku

On September 19, 1972, a confidential source, (U) who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised as follows: C

Sergei Kourdakov, born March 1, 1951, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), a former Soviet seaman who "jumped ship" in Canada in September, 1971, and who was granted political asylum in Canada, is presently attempting to obtain permanent residence in the United States. Since living in Canada, Kourdakov has become connected with a Christian sect known as "Underground Evangelism" and has been giving talks in Canada and in the United States, espousing Christianity. In his talks, subject describes himself as one who, while living in the USSR, went around combating Christianity, citing, as an example, that on one occasion he publicly berated an old lady for having in her possession a small cross. Kourdakov (U) claims to have a tenth grade education. C

Kourdakov has enlisted the aid of Representative Earl F. Landgrebe, Indiana, in his efforts to obtain (U) permanent residence status in the United States. C

C#236076
CLASSIFIED BY: 9145 ai/ew
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
5/23/85

1220
CLASSIFIED BY 3911 bkw BEG/DK
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1* [redacted] u

b7E

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-17-2014 by: J76J65T61

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND [illegible] FICES
ADV[illegible]
SLIP(S)
DATE 5-29-85

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DATE: 9/27/72

SUBJECT: SERGEI KOURDAKOV
IS - R

#256,076
CLASSIFIED BY: 9145 ci/ew
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
5/23/85

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

The source is [redacted] who furnished the information to SA [redacted] Source advised that [redacted] who is [redacted] brought this matter to source's attention recently, and showed source background information on subject, none of which was derogatory. Source learned that subject, who has permanent residence in Canada, has been visiting the United States in connection with the Christian Sect, "Underground Evangelism", giving talks on Christianity. Source advised that [redacted] had checked the "Toronto Globe Mail" newspaper in Toronto, Canada, concerning subject and had found no derogatory information.

Source learned from [redacted] that Representative LANDGREBE is a very devout Christian who during a recent visit to the USSR, fell into disfavor with Soviet authorities for handing out religious phamplets. Representative LANDGREBE is preparing a bill which would give subject permanent residence status.

WFO indices are negative concerning subject [redacted]

REC-69

CLASSIFIED BY 3[illegible]
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
5-1-91 deleted per agency letter dtd 10-30-91

Copy to [illegible] State (4)
by routing slip for ☐ info ☐ action
date 10-12-72
by [illegible]

(2) Bureau (Enc. 5)
1- WFO
1-134-[illegible]

EX-117

16 SEP 28 1972

ESPIONAGE

DJK:mad
(4)

SEE REVERSE FOR ADD. D[illegible]N

5 8 OCT 13 1972 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7E

Above being furnished for the information of the Bureau. UACB, WFO intends no further action in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

05CA

KOURD 1-2

RUNNING SPRINGS, CALIF. (UPI) -- A FORMER RUSSIAN SAILOR WHO JUMPED FROM HIS SHIP AND SWAM TO CANADA TO ESCAPE COMMUNISM IN 1971 WAS FOUND DEAD IN A RENTED MOUNTAIN CABIN MONDAY, A BULLET WOUND IN HIS HEAD.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES SAID THE DEATH OF SERGEI M. KOURDAKOV, 21, MAY HAVE BEEN A SUICIDE AND THAT FOUL PLAY WAS RULED OUT.

A YOUNG AMERICAN WOMAN, WHO HAD RENTED THE CABIN WITH KOURDAKOV FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY, REPORTED THE DEATH. SHE WAS NOT HELD.

KOURDAKOV DREW WIDE PUBLICITY IN SEPTEMBER, 1971, WHEN HE LEAPED FROM A RUSSIAN TRAWLER DURING A STORM AND SWAM TO THE COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

HE WAS GIVEN IMMIGRANT STATUS IN CANADA SOON AFTER HIS DEFECTION AND WAS GRANTED A TEMPORARY VISA TO TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES.

UPI 01-02 04:52 AES

[redacted] b7E

AKA Sergei Kourdakov

[redacted] b7E

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-01 BY 34063 dlw/KCE/pa

REC-84

JAN 3 1973

57 JAN 11 1973

1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

CODE TELETYPE NITEL

TO SAC, LOS ANGELES 1/2/73

FROM ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

SERGEI KOURDAKOV
IS - R

REBUTELCAL 1/1/73 CONCERNING DEATH OF ABOVE CAPTIONED SUBJECT.

SUBMIT BY AIRTEL A LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM (LHM) SETTING FORTH INFORMATION FURNISHED TO YOUR OFFICE BY SAN BERNARDINO SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR PURPOSES OF DISSEMINATION. ALSO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF ITEMS FROM LOCAL PRESS.

JPL:mas
(4)

NOTE:

Subject was a 21 year old Soviet Seaman who defected in Canada in 1971 by jumping ship and swimming ashore. He claimed conversion to Evangelism and was attempting to obtain American citizenship. He killed himself on 12/31/72 by accidental shooting. LHM desired in order to respond to requests of IDC [redacted] b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-22-01 BY 39063 Elw/RS

[redacted] b7E

REC-84

19 JAN 3 1973

Felt
Baker
Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JAN 02 1973
TELETYPE

JAN 1 0

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

5-113a (9-29-65)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED Date 1-22-04 BY 34063 dlw/BCE/pr

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 1/3/73

Attached relates to Sergei Nikolay Kourdakov, Soviet trawler seaman who defected to Canada during 1971 by jumping ship. He subsequently entered the U.S. Kourdakov killed himself in what appears to be an accidental discharge of revolver while demonstrating safe condition of weapon to [redacted] at Running Springs, California, motel during early morning 1/1/73. At time of death Kourdakov was writing a manuscript in Russian which is now in custody of San Bernardino County Coroner's Office. Subject of manuscript not known, however, we will obtain a copy. [redacted] Coroner and Public Administrator, San Bernardino, advised that Soviets have legal right to body and effects inasmuch as Kourdakov has no relatives outside the USSR. [redacted] has contacted local State Department Office at Los Angeles regarding Kourdakov's effects and plans to contact Senator Strom Thurman (R-SC) in effort to resolve this question. Thurmond

b6
b7C

ACTION: None. For information. We are closely following this matter with our Los Angeles Office.

AES:aeh

1-3 2:15P

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 03 1973

TELETYPE

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Mintz, E.S.
Mr. Purvis
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herring
Mrs. Neenan

NR 028 LA CODE

11:16 PM NITEL 1-2-73 RWM

TO ACTING DIRECTOR

FROM LOS ANGELES [redacted] 4P. b7E

[redacted]

SERGEANT NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, IS - R, OO: LOS ANGELES.

ON 1/1/73 AND 1/2/73, DETECTIVE [redacted], SAN BERNARDINO b6 b7C
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ADVISED THAT SUBJECT APPARENTLY SHOT
HIMSELF ACCIDENTLY WITH A .38 CALIBER FIVE SHOT SMITH AND
WESSON REVOLVER AT APPROXIMATELY 12:15 A.M., 1/1/73. SUBJECT
AND [redacted] AGE [redacted] WERE SPENDING
THE NIGHT AT THE GIANT OAKS MOTEL, RUNNING SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA.

DETECTIVE [redacted] STATED SUBJECT TOLD [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] THAT HE FEARED FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND WANTED A
REVOLVER. [redacted] THEN FURNISHED THE ABOVE MENTIONED
REVOLVER, (SERIAL NUMBER 482900).

ON SAME DATE, 12/31/72, SUBJECT WAS SHOWING [redacted] b6 b7C
HOW THE REVOLVER WORKED. HE PLACED FOUR CARTRIDGES IN THE [redacted] b7E
CHAMBER AND LEFT ONE CHAMBER EMPTY. HE PLACED THE EMPTY [redacted]
CHAMBER DIRECTLY UNDER THE REVOLVER'S HAMMER AND TOLD HER [redacted] b6 b7C

END PAGE ONE

REC-84

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-22-01 BY 3906 38dw/BEP

JAN 11 1973

[redacted] b7E

IT WAS SAFE IN THAT POSITION.

AFTER EATING AND HAVING A FEW DRINKS THEY RETURNED TO HER MOTEL ROOM. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, SUBJECT, WHO WAS VERY HAPPY AND SMILING, PICKED UP THE REVOLVER, POINTED IT TO HIS HEAD AND PULLED THE TRIGGER.

THE BULLET ENTERED THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS HEAD AND EXITED ABOUT FOUR INCHES ABOVE ITS ENTRY POINT.

[redacted] STATED SUBJECT HAD BEEN STAYING WITH [redacted] b6 b7C AT [redacted], CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA. HE STATED THAT INVESTIGATION TO DATE, GIVES NO INDICATION THAT SUBJECT'S DEATH WAS OTHER THAN ACCIDENTAL. HE ADVISED THAT A TOXOLOGY REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE YET FROM THE CORONERS' OFFICE, HOWEVER AN EMPTY BOTTLE OF CHAMPAIGN AND ANOTHER BOTTLE WHICH WAS EMPTY AS WELL AS AN EMPTY SIX PACK OF BEER WAS FOUND IN THE ROOM.

SUBJECT HAD IN HIS POSSESSION CANADIAN IDENTIFICATION CARD NC54380 IN THE NAME OF SERGIE NIKOLAY KOUDAKOV AND A CHECK BOOK ON BANK OF CALIFORNIA IN THE NAME OF SERGIE KOURDAKOV, OF APPROXIMATELY $1,000.

SUBJECT WAS BORN 3/1/51 IN NOZOSIBIRSK, USSR, AND WAS DESCRIBED AS 6'1", 220, BROWN HAIR AND BROWN EYES.

[redacted] b7E

PAGE THREE

[redacted] ADVISED THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH SUBJECT b6 b7C
WAS WRITING A MANUSCRIPT IN RUSSIAN OF CONSIDERABLE LENGTH
AND IT IS CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY OF SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE. THE MATTER OF THIS MANUSCRIPT
HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED HOWEVER, [redacted] INDICATED IT
MAY HAVE BEEN A SECOND BOOK INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION BY
HIS SPONSOR, THE UNDERGROUND EVANGELIST GROUP OF GLENDALE,
CALIFORNIA, FOR WHOM HE HAS BEEN ON A LECTURE TOUR.

[redacted] STATED THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST
IN SUBJECT'S DEATH. THE SAN BERNARDINO SO HAS REQUESTED b6 b7C b7D
FURTHER BACKGROUND DATA RE SUBJECT FROM [redacted]
[redacted] IN VIEW OF [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] CORONER AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY, INDICATED ON 1/2/73, THAT HE DID NOT PLAN AN INQUEST
BUT STATED THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THE SOVIETS HAVE A LEGAL
RIGHT TO SUBJECT'S BODY AND EFFECTS SINCE THERE ARE NO KNOWN
RELATIVES OF HIS OUTSIDE THE USSR. [redacted] HAS MADE INQUIRY OF
THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES RE STATUS OF
SUBJECT'S EFFECTS, AND HAD INDICATED HE PLANNED TO CALL
SENATOR STROM THURMAN IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE STATUS OF
SUBJECT'S EFFECTS.

END PAGE THREE

[redacted] b7E

PAGE FOUR

[redacted] ADVISED HE WAS OBTAINING A TRANSLATION OF THE PAGE OF THE MANUSCRIPT IN SUBJECT'S TYPEWRITER AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH TO DETERMINE IF IT HAD ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN RELATION TO HIS DEATH. b6 b7C

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE LOS ANGELES TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN JOHN BURNS, FBI HEADQUARTERS, DIVISION 5 AND SA [redacted] LOS ANGELES, ON 1/1/73. b6 b7C

LHM WILL FOLLOW. LOS ANGELES WILL SUBMIT COPY OF ABOVE MANUSCRIPT TO BUREAU FOR TRANSLATION WHEN IT IS MADE AVAILABLE BY CORONERS OFFICE. LOS ANGELES ALSO SUBMITTING FINGERPRINTS OF SUBJECT FURNISHED BY CORONERS OFFICE TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.

END

HOLD FOR ONE

TMT FBI SOG

CC [redacted] b6 b7C

0-19 (Rev. 10-30-72)

Felt
Baker
Bishop
Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

Soviet Officer Dies, Defected To West in '71

RUNNING SPRINGS, Calif., Jan. 1 (AP)—Sergei Kourdakov, a former Soviet submarine officer and Soviet youth leader who defected to the Western world in 1971, was found dead today, an apparent suicide, authorities said.

San Bernardino County sheriff's officers said they received a report from an unidentified woman who said Kourdakov, 21, had shot himself in the head. Chief Deputy Coroner A. F. Payne said Kourdakov was found at a motel in this ski resort area.

Kourdakov gained world attention when he leaped from a Russian fishing trawler during a storm off the coast of British Columbia on Sept. 3, 1971. He braved the storm to swim to the coast in an ordeal that lasted 20 hours.

The Washington Post
Times Herald A-4
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World

Date 1-12-73

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-01 BY 34063 dlw/dcp

b7E

NOT RECORDED
202 JAN 10 1973

51 JAN 10 1973

1/5/73

AIRTEL

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

FROM: SAC, WFO [redacted] (P)

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
IN THE U.S.
IS - R
(OO:WFO)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE DATE 1-25-00 BY 39063 Eds/CEP/DK

Re WFO letter to the Bureau, 9/27/72, under caption "SERGEI KOURDAKOV, IS-R [redacted]". b7E

For the information of the Bureau and Los Angeles Office, referenced communication revealed that SERGEI KOURDAKOV, who had defected from the USSR by "jumping ship" in September, 1971, was traveling through the U.S. giving talks on Christianity and against Communism. Representative EARL F. LANDGREVE, Indiana had been preparing a bill giving KOURDAKOV permanent resident status in U.S.

On 1/2/73, an AP article appeared in the "Washington Post" indicating that KOURDAKOV had committed suicide on 1/1/73, in Running Springs, California.

Subsequent reaction among the Russian emigres in WDC area has been strong. (KOURDAKOV had spent two weeks in WDC in early December, 1972, had spoken with many emigre groups concerning his "salvation" from Communism and his conversion to Christianity.)

WFO sources knowledgeable in the emigre community have advised [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

ORIGINAL FILED IN

2-Bureau
3-Los Angeles
1-WFO
JCL:lmc

[redacted] b7E

NOT RECORDED
27 JAN 11 1973

15 JAN 15 1973

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] b7D

Therefore, in view of the previous interest of Congressman LANDGREVE in the KOURDAKOV case, and of the present action of the emigres in moving for further investigation into this matter, it would appear that official inquiries might be forthcoming to the Bureau from the office of Congressman LANDGREVE or from other representatives of Government.

LEADS

LOS ANGELES

AT SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA. Determine through established sources facts surrounding this death and disposition of remains, UACB.

0-19 (Rev. 12-1-72)

Felt
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Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

b7E

Young Russian Defector Victim of Gun Accident

[redacted]

Sergei Kourdakov, 21, a former Soviet naval officer who defected in Canada in 1971, died Jan. 1 in a shooting accident in Running Springs, Calif., a ski resort.

Although the death originally was said by San Bernadino County authorities to be an apparent suicide, the county coroner now says that all indications point to an accident. A final report has not been made.

Mr. Kourdakov leaped from a Russian fishing trawler during a storm off the coast of British Columbia in September, 1971, and in a 20-hour ordeal managed to swim to the coast.

He entered the United States in July under the sponsorship of the Evangelism Center in Glendale, Calif. For the last five months he had lectured before church groups from coast to coast on the ills of Soviet society and the need for a worldwide spiritual revival. While in Washington he stayed at Fellowship House on Woodland Drive NW.

Mr. Kourdakov, born in Siberia, was the son of a senior Soviet military officer. Orphaned at the age of 4, he was reared in a series of state orphanages.

He leaves no known survivors.

Services were scheduled for 2 p.m., today at St. John the Bapitst Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, 4001 17th St. NW, with burial in Rock Creek Cemetery.

55 JAN 16 1973

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-22-01 BY 39063 Elw/BCE

The Washington Post
Times Herald
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World

Date JAN 11 1973

[redacted] FINAL EDITION

b7E

NOT RECORDED
2 JAN 15 1973

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Purvis
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

TELETYPE

NR 025 LA CODE

537 PM NITEL 1-4-73 RWM

TO ACTING DIRECTOR [redacted]

FROM LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P) 1P.

[redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, AKA, IS - R, OO: LOS ANGELES.

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU 1/2/73.

JANUARY 4, INSTANT, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT [redacted] CORONER-PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, WILL NOT RELEASE ANY MANUSCRIPTS BELONGING TO SUBJECT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT INQUEST WILL BE HELD CONCERNING SUBJECT'S DEATH. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DATE AS TO WHEN THIS DECISION WILL BE REACHED. THE MANUSCRIPTS IN QUESTION WILL BE FORWARDED TO BUREAU AS SOON AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE.

LOS ANGELES IS FORWARDING TO TRANSLATION SECTION OF THE [redacted] LABORATORY BY AIRTEL THE SINGLE PAGE OF TYPEWRITTEN RUSSIAN FOUND IN SUBJECT'S TYPEWRITER AT TIME OF HIS DEATH. THIS PAGE WAS FURNISHED BY THE CORONER ON 1/2/73.

REC-84

16 JAN 8 1973

MATTER BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY LOS ANGELES OFFICE.

END

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-22-01 BY 39063 dw/sc/pk

57 JAN 11 1973

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-23-2014 by: J75J65T61

1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

Airtel

To: SAC, Los Angeles [redacted] 1/11/73 b7E

From: Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

There is attached one copy of a message received from [redacted] b6 b7C b7D requests that information set forth therein be furnished to [redacted] The information pertains to [redacted] This information should be furnished to the above-mentioned individual in accordance with the request of [redacted]

(U)

Enclosure
JPL:aeh (4)

NOTE:

Kourdakov is a Soviet seaman, age 21, who defected by jumping from a Soviet ship in Canada in 1971. On 1/1/73 he accidentally killed himself while displaying a revolver to [redacted] in a motel in California. The Sheriff's Office, San Bernardino [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(U)

CLASSIFIED BY 39063 [redacted] EXCEPT
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X [redacted]

b7E

MAILED 21
JAN 11 1973
FBI

REC-49

EX-101

Felt
Baker
Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

JAN 17 1973

MAIL ROOM [1973] TELETYPE UNIT

5-113a (9-29-65)

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 1/11/73

Attached teletype relates to Sergei N. Kourdakov, 21 year old Soviet seaman who defected to Canada in 1971 and had visited in U. S. He killed himself in a California motel 1/1/73 in apparent accidental discharge of revolver while demonstrating safe condition of gun to [redacted] We requested the coroner to furnish manuscript Kourdakov was writing at time of his death to determine if there was any Soviet involvement in his death. Subject was involved in evangelistic activities and had contacted Congressman Earl F. Landgrebe (R-Ind.) and Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) in connection with his attempts to obtain U. S. citizenship. Kourdakov's body released to [redacted], Evangelism Center, Glendale, California, and taken to Washington, D. C., for burial. [redacted], Coroner, San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, California, has been subpoenaed to Washington, D. C., 1/11/73 to appear, with above-mentioned manuscript, before a committee under direction of Senator Thurmond. Manuscript has not been, and will not be, released to FBI until decision has been made concerning possible inquest.

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-91 BY 34063 Glw/BC/Rc

ACTION:

For information. Los Angeles Office is closely following this matter.

JPL:was

WBC EM/dem Wor. JPL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 11 1973

TELETYPE

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Purvis
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herron
Mrs. Neenan

b7E

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-22-01 BY 3416 3Edw/kcg/gk

NR 050 LA CODE

11:00 PM NITEL 1-10-73 PEN

TO ACTING DIRECTOR

FROM LOS ANGELES (P) 2P

[redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, AKA IS DASH R, OO: LOS ANGELES.

RE LOS ANGELES TELETYPE TO BUREAU 1/4/73.

ON 1/10/73, DETECTIVE [redacted] SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

b6
b7C

SUBJECT'S BODY WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK TO [redacted] OF THE EVANGELISM CENTER, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA, AND TAKEN TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR BURIAL UNDER HIS DIRECTION. [redacted] IS PRESENTLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND HAS APPARENTLY CONTACTED SENATOR STROM THURMOND AND ~~SENATOR~~ CONGRESSMAN EARL LANGREBE, D (REP. - INDIANA) CONCERNING SUBJECT'S DEATH. ~~SENATOR~~ CONGRESSMAN LANGREBE, D AND [redacted] [redacted] INTERNAL SECURITY SUB COMMITTEE, BOTH CONTACTED [redacted] REGARDING SUBJECT BY TELEPHONE AND [redacted] EXPLAINED NATURE OF SUBJECT'S DEATH AS INDICATED BY CURRENT INVESTIGATION.

b7E

END PAGE ONE

REC-3 [redacted]

EX-105

17 JAN 12 1973

57

58 JAN 16 1973

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] ADVISED FURTHER THAT [redacted] HAS HIRED TWO BURNS b6 b7C
DETECTIVE AGENCY MEN APPARENTLY TO INQUIRE REGARDING SUBJECT'S
DEATH. [redacted] FEELS [redacted] IS ATTEMPTING TO CAST SUSPICION ON
NATURE OF SUBJECT'S DEATH AND IS TRYING TO MAKE A MARTYR OF
SUBJECT FOR BENEFIT OF HIS EVANGELISM ORGANIZATION. UNDERGROUND
EVANGELISM GROUP CURRENTLY IS OFFERING FOR SALE A STORY AND
FILM CONCERNING SUBJECT.

[redacted] STATED [redacted] CORONER, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, b6 b7C
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, HAS BEEN SUBPOENAED TO WASHINGTON,
D.C. ON 1/11/73, TO APPEAR WITH SUBJECT'S MANUSCRIPTS BEFORE A
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, EXACT NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE IS
UNKNOWN TO [redacted] BUT IT IS POSSIBLY UNDER DIRECTION OF SENATOR
STROM THURMOND. [redacted] HAS NOT YET RELEASED MANUSCRIPTS TO
FBI AND WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE CONCERNING
A POSSIBLE INQUEST REGARDING SUBJECT'S DEATH.

THIS MATTER IS BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY LOS ANGELES.

END.

SAC, Los Angeles [redacted]

January 11, 1973 b7E

ST-103 REC 4

Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
Serge N. Kourdakov,
Serge Kourda
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Attached is the translation which you requested by airtel dated 1/4/73.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is returned herewith.

Enc. (3)

1 - Mr. E. S. Miller (Attn: Espionage Section), sent direct with enclosure

TN/var
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4-22-01 BY 39063 LCW/BLG/DK

MAILED 5
JAN 10 1973
FBI

Felt
Baker
Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

55 JAN 18 1973

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SUMMARY FROM RUSSIAN

The enclosed FLM appears to be a fragment (page 3) of a fictional story with the heading, "FIRST STORY: Rise, the Court is Now in Session," describing a scene in a rural court in Soviet Russia. The text contains numerous errors in spelling, but the writing itself appears to be of professional quality; the story is written in the first person.

In addition to a description of the defendant, a 19-year-old youth who is charged with "destroying" (possibly, murder) of a woman, there is a rather comical description of the attorney for the defense, and of the general setting, supplemented with remarks in the audience.

The fragment ends with the judge's announcement that the medical experts found the defendant quite normal and a recital of events preceding the crime.

SUMMARIZED BY: [redacted] pww

January 10, 1973

b6
b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/4/73

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
Serge N. Kourdakov,
Serge Kourda
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Contact to R.H. upon Lo (5) (attn: [redacted]) TN/ar-1-11-73 [redacted] h/wp

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-22-07 BY 39063 dmh/ksp/dk

b6 b7C

Re Los Angeles teletypes to the Bureau dated 1/2/73 and 1/4/73.

Enclosed for the FBI Laboratory, Translation Section, is one xeroxed copy of one page of typewritten Russian. This page was found in the typewriter of subject at the time he accidentally shot himself to death on 1/1/73, according to information furnished by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office. Subject was born 3/1/51 in Novosibirsk, USSR and defected by swimming from a Russian trawler to British Columbia in September 1971. This page may possibly be part of a manuscript subject was writing at the time of his death. The manuscript and/or writings of subject, except for the enclosed page, have not yet been released to the FBI by the Coroner of San Bernardino County, pending a decision as to whether or not an inquest will be held. [redacted] b7E

REC 44

ST-103

It is requested that a summary translation of the enclosed page be made on an expedite basis as to its general contents and in particular for any information which would [redacted] b7E

3 - Bureau (Encl 1) (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/ldm
(5)

1 ENCLOSURE

JRP: mw 1/8/73

A-K.K.

CI-[redacted] ESPIONAGE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

[redacted] b7E

appear to be of an intelligence and/or security nature, or which would have any bearing on subject's death, such as any reference to suicide.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/2/73

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] b7E

SUBJECT: SERGEI KOURDAKOV
IS - R

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM), dated and captioned as above.

NY plans no further investigation in this matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-19-01 3906380w166P0V

4 to 1 deletes per agency letter dtd 7-30-01

[redacted] b7E

2-Bureau (Encls. 5) (RM)
1-New York

DEU:dbr
(3)

REC-110

96 JAN 4 1973

Approved: [signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Russian Sailor Who Jumped Ship Kills Self After Year in U.S.

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

A young Russian sailor who jumped from his ship and swam to the Canadian shore to escape communism has apparently committed suicide after one year in the United States.

San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies said they found Sergei Kourdakov, 21, in a rented cabin near Running Springs, dead of a head wound from a .38 caliber revolver.

A young American woman, whom deputies would not identify, notified authorities of Kourdakov's death. The two had rented the cabin over the New Year's holiday, they said.

Although San Bernardino County deputy coroner Alan Paine said he could not positively confirm the death as a suicide, police officers said they had ruled out foul play and did not detain the young woman.

Kourdakov leaped from his trawler during a storm in September, 1971, and swam to the British Columbia coast.

A youth formerly honored for his leadership in the Communist Youth League, he renounced his past and had lectured against communism in the United States in the past year.

Kourdakov's escape from his trawler drew wide publicity and he was given immigrant status in Canada soon after his defection.

Later he was granted a temporary visa to travel in the United States and efforts were underway to secure a permanent visa for him.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Part II, page 1, dated 1/2/73.

Mystery shrouds the investigation today into the death of a defected Soviet submarine officer found shot in the head at a Running Springs Hotel near Lake Arrowhead.

Found dead in his ski resort area hotel room yesterday was Sergei K o u r d a k o v, 21, who jumped ship in 1971 in the North Pacific and defected to the Western world.

San Bernardino County sheriff's officers said Kourdakov was an apparent suicide victim, but Chief Deputy Coroner A.F. Paine said it had not been determined whether he committed suicide.

Paine called for an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death, and said it would take a day or two before the results are known.

Authorities said they were called to the motel by an unidentified woman who said Kourdakov shot himself in the head.

Adding to the intrigue, homicide detectives would not identify the woman who telephoned them, but said that no one is in custody. Their investigation is continuing.

Kourdakov was a Communist youth leader in the far eastern Russian province of Kamchatka. He passed his examinations for Communist Party membership while still in his late teens. He was a lecturer on Communism in Soviet universities.

During a storm off the coast of British Columbia Sept. 3, 1971, Kourdakov leaped from a Russian fishing trawler and survived a 20-hour swim to the coast through the storm, he said.

He is said to have been the swimming champion at Leningrad's naval academy.

Kourdakov's entry into the United States was secured by Rep. Earl Landgrebe, R-Ind., who arranged a two-month visa. He had been living in Glendale.

While in this country, Kourdakov spoke publicly about what he felt are the ills of Communism.

Before entering the U.S., Kourdakov remained in Canada while officials tried to confirm the story of his defection.

Last August, the California-based Underground Evangelism Society announced it planned to broadcast Kourdakov's story throughout the Communist world.

Headline article captioned "RUSS DEFECTOR DEATH UNDER PROBE" on page one, Herald Examiner newspaper, Los Angeles, California, dated 1/2/72.

Shooting Death of Russian Defector Believed Accidental

BY FRANK DEL OLMO
Times Staff Writer

The weekend shooting death of a young Russian defector in a mountain cabin near Running Springs apparently was accidental, San Bernardino County officials indicated Tuesday.

Sheriff's Det. James Cox, who investigated the death of Sergei N. Kourdakov, 21, told a newsman it is "highly probable it (the shooting) was an accidental thing."

However, Cox said the final—and official—determination of the cause of death would be made by the county coroner's office.

And Coroner William Hill, whose office performed an autopsy on Kourdakov's body Tuesday, said later in the day that he is "leaning toward the belief it was an accident."

Both men said there were indications the young Russian sailor may have been handling a .38 caliber revolver when it discharged accidentally. The bullet struck him in the head.

Kourdakov died in a rented one-room cabin where he had gone with a friend, identified as Ann Johnson, 17, of Cerritos, to spend the New Year's weekend, Cox said.

Examined Pistol

Miss Johnson told Cox that Kourdakov had shown her the gun earlier in the evening, explaining that all but one of its chambers were loaded.

Cox said Kourdakov told Miss Johnson that the one empty chamber was positioned so that the gun would not fire the first time the trigger was pulled.

Miss Johnson told Cox the young Russian was quietly examining the gun when it fired.

Cox said sheriff's investigators have ruled out any chance of foul play, and that Miss Johnson was not held.

Cox said the pistol had been given to Kourdakov by Miss Johnson's father for protection because the young Russian "may have feared for his safety."

Kourdakov drew wide attention in September, 1971, when he leaped from a Russian trawler during a storm and swam to the coast of British Columbia, a 20-hour ordeal.

He was given immigrant status in Canada soon after his defection and was granted a temporary visa to travel in the United States.

The young man, who had been honored for his leadership in the Communist Youth League in the Soviet Union, renounced his past once in America and began lecturing against communism.

His official sponsor in this country was Underground Evangelism Inc., a Glendale-based organization which distributes Bibles and other religious materials in Communist countries.

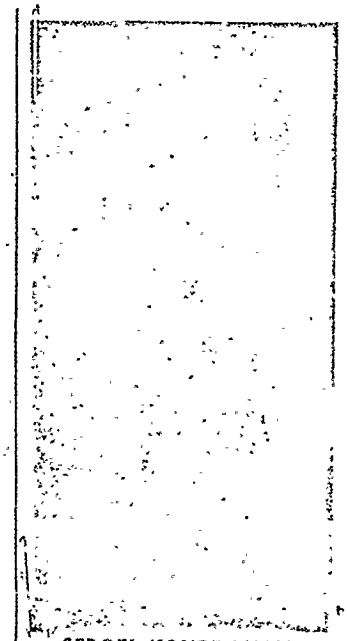
Late Tuesday a spokesmen for Underground Evangelism said Kourdakov, an "exuberant, outgoing, athletic" young man, was planning to apply for a permanent U.S. visa later this month.

He said Miss Johnson was related to a family which had "adopted" Kourdakov during his U.S. stay.

The spokesman said Kourdakov carried a gun because threats had been made against his life, at least once while he was appearing at an Orange County church telling of his conversions from communism to Christianity.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Part II, page 1, dated 1/3/73.

Soviet Defector Dead, Story Lives On



SERGEI KOURDAKOV

By RAY McHUGH
Chief, Washington Bureau
Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — The bizarre death of a young Russian defector has denied the Senate Judiciary Committee a first-hand report on an increasingly impatient, rebellious youth screened behind the careful facade of the Soviet society.

Sergei Kourdakov, 21, a naval lieutenant who was hailed in 1971 as the outstanding member of the Komsomol or Communist youth, defected in September, 1971. He leaped from a Russian fishing trawler during a storm off Canada's Pacific Coast and somehow survived a tortured 10-hour ordeal. Last July 25th he entered the United States on a visa under the auspices of the Evangelical Center at Glendale, an organization dedicated to promote religious liberty inside Communist nations.

A frequent visitor to Washington, Kourdakov met privately with U.S. intelligence officials, leaders of Voice of America and the U.S. Information Agency, high-ranking military officers and members of Congress. At the invitation of Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., he was to testify late this month at a hearing of the Judiciary Committee.

Government figures have been fascinated with Kourdakov's story of his own life in a series of state-run orphanages, his experience at naval academies at Leningrad and Vladivostok and in the Komsomol, and his accounts of the rebellious life styles of Soviet youth — accounts that included narcotics, alcoholism, Mafia-like crime, hippie colonies and other extremes seldom associated with the regimented Soviet society.

His own contagious enthusiasm for life in the United States added a dramatic touch to his accounts and made it almost impossible for official Washington to accept the news of his death New Year's Day in a California shooting accident.

"I never knew a young man with such a zest for life and such promising future," says Joseph Bass, executive director of the Evangelical Center and Kourdakov's legal guardian.

Death, however, has not silenced Kourdakov. Bass said he had prepared copious notes and several tape recordings in anticipation of his session with the senators. These will now be turned over to Sen. Thurmond, he said.

Bass also disclosed plans to publish a book that Kourdakov had written on his life inside the Soviet Union. He was orphaned at the age of four when his father, a Stalinist Red Army Colonel, was killed in a purge after Premier Nikita Khrushchev came to power. His mother died a few months later.

"It is a fantastic, moving story," Bass said. "Sergei tells it like a young Solzhenitzen."

Any proceeds from the book, he said, will be used to disseminate Bibles and religious tracts in Communist countries.

"That's the kind of memorial

"The Register" newspaper, Santa Ana, California, page A-1, 1/4/73

Soviet Defector

Sergei would have wanted." he said.

On a holiday skiing trip to Colorado and California arranged by friendly churchmen, Kourdakov was killed when a revolver he was holding discharged. Ironically, he had borrowed the gun from a Denver friend, fearful that Soviet agents one day would make an attempt to seize him or kill him. During his early months in Canada, he claimed, Soviet agents threatened him several times that unless he stopped speaking out against the Russian system, he would be "taken care of."

"One of them said: 'One day you're going to have an accident and it'll be the last accident you ever have,'" Kourdakov told friends.

The warning proved tragically prophetic for the husky, young, fun-loving Russian, though authorities have ruled his death accidental and with no link to his supposed pursuers.

A companion told sheriff's deputies at Running Spring, Calif., that Kourdakov returned after midnight Jan. 1, and at the companion's urging checked to be sure the revolver was where he had left it.

As Kourdakov pulled the gun from a drawer, the companion urged him to be careful.

"I understand guns, don't worry," the Russian is said to have replied. "I always keep the chamber under the hammer and the next chamber empty so I have to pull the trigger twice before it will fire."

The companion said he gestured with the gun, said "see," pulled the trigger and the bullet crashed into his head.

The San Bernardino County coroner's office has ruled out any suggestion of suicide.

The Russian lieutenant's body has been cleared by the Naturalization and Immigration Service for burial in Washington next week. Services will be held at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church with interment in the Russian section of Rock Creek Park Cemetery, alongside several other Russians who sought freedom in the United States.

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

Enderby B.C. Canada

Jan 3. 1972

ENDERBY, BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

7 B I Chief. SERGEI KOURDAKOV

Dear Sir:

I write this to beg of you to order an inquiry into the shooting death of Sergei Kourdakov the defector from the Soviet Union who was shot to death in Green Oaks Motel, [redacted] Son Bernardo County being deputy coroner in this case. Sergei being awarded top Communist honors by the Soviet - then defecting to Canada and being outspoken in his new faith in Jesus Christ - speaking boldly against wicked Communist practices would be a number one enemy of the Communist world. I have met the lad and heard him tell his story and am assured he was no candidate for suicide. A person intending to take his own life doesn't usually have another friend with him at the time. All the circumstances point to foul play. Please order a full inquiry into this case is my plea. Thank You.

b6
b7C

b7E

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

REC-21

111

FILE 4 dtd 1-22-73 ltr/nla

CORRESPONDENCE

FILE

JAN 30 1973

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-24-93 BY SP2 AC/MK

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/3/73

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted]

ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
Serge N. Kourdakov,
Serge Kourda
IS - R
CO: Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-24-01 BY 39063 Ew/BCE/bk

Re Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau dated 1/2/73.

Enclosed for the Identification Division is one set of fingerprints of SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, born 3/1/51, in Novosibirsk, USSR, and described as a Caucasian male, 6'1", 220 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. He had Canadian Identity Card, NC 54380. The prints were taken by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office, San Bernardino, California, and were furnished to the Los Angeles Office on 1/2/73; they may be retained at the Identification Division.

[redacted] b7E

Investigation by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office indicates that subject accidentally killed himself on 1/1/73 at Running Springs, California. His body is currently in custody of the Coroner's Office, San Bernardino County. Subject defected from a Russian trawler in September 1971 by swimming to shore at British Columbia.

REC-40 [redacted]

3 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ:ldm
(5)

3 JAN 6 1973

1 ENCLOSURE

20 FEB 1 1973

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 407

[redacted] b7E

REQUESTS OF THE BUREAU

The Identification Division is requested to expedite a search of fingerprint files for any record of Subject. It is requested that results of this search be furnished to the Los Angeles Office and to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, San Bernardino, California, attention Detective [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] Homicide Division.

Mr. J. P. Lee

CODE TELETYPE NITEL

ST-102

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] 1/26/73 b7E

FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

REC-4

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka IS - R

REURAIRTEL 1/16/73.

THE FBI LABORATORY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY SIDEARM IS THE NINE MILLIMETER MAKAROV WHICH IS A SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL. NO REVOLVERS ARE IN USE IN THE SOVIET ARMY OR NAVY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION MAY BE FURNISHED TO DETECTIVE [redacted] OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. b6 b7C

JPL:cs
(3)

NOTE:

Subject is a Soviet defector who killed himself on New Years day when a revolver, which he was showing to his girl-friend, discharged, apparently accidentally. The San Bernardino Sheriff's Office is conducting an investigation and are interested in determining the types of handguns available to the Soviet Military Service, since the subject had served in the Soviet Navy. Above information furnished by Special Agent George Berley of the FBI Laboratory.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-9-01 BY 39063 dmw/BCR/DK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION COMMUNICATIONS SECTION 1:32 PM JAN 26 1973 TELETYPE

Felt
Baker
Callahan
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Gebhardt
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Purvis
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

10 FEB 1 1973

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-23-2014 by: J75J65T61

FBI

Date: 1/16/73

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED (Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka.
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles b6 b7C

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, dated 1/9/73, and Bureau airtel to Los Angeles, dated 1/11/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above, setting forth interviews of [redacted] and [redacted] b6 b7C One information copy of the LHM is designated for Washington Field Office and one copy is disseminated to Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) locally.

The enclosure from [redacted] attached to referenced airtel, 1/11/73, was delivered to SA [redacted] San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, on 1/15/73, by SA [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(U) [redacted] was interviewed on 1/9/73, by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] and on 1/10/73, [redacted] was interviewed by SA ROBERT L. BOYD and SA PETER W. JORGENSEN b6 b7C b7E

REC-40

On 1/10/73, Detective [redacted] San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office advised that [redacted] b6 b7C

19 1973

ENCLOSURE ST-102 21

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
1 - Washington Field (Enc. 1) (RM)
2 - Los Angeles
PWJ/clr
(5)

CLASSIFIED BY 3906 Elsw/Rep/DC
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
declass per another gov't agency letter dtd 7-30-4 ESPIONAGE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 422-735

[redacted] b7E

Evangelism Center, Glendale, California, has contacted some congressman and apparently implied that KOURDAKOV's death occurred under mysterious circumstances and that the Russians had somehow tampered with the revolver. [redacted] added he feels that [redacted] has monetary interest in KOURDAKOV's death as indicated by the fact that the underground Evangelism group is currently offering a story regarding KOURDAKOV for $4.00, and a small film strip concerning him for $5.00. b6 b7C

On 1/11/73, [redacted] stated he had been contacted by Congressman EARL LANGREBE and advised that it could not be verified to date whether or not the subject was actually in the Russian Navy. [redacted] also advised that JOHN BROGER of Washington, D.C. was the [redacted] who reportedly interviewed the subject while he was in Washington, D.C. [redacted] did not know yet what agency BROGER was associated, but had a telephone number for him. [redacted] was unable to reach him on 1/11/73. [redacted] added that [redacted] Coroner, San Bernardino County, was supposed to have a meeting with [redacted] in Washington, D.C. on 1/11/73. b6 b7C (X)(U)

[redacted] advised that subject's [redacted] has [redacted] regarding the circumstances of subject's death. [redacted] stated the two Burns Detective Agency men, who appeared at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office claimed they had heard a tape recording at the Evangelism Center in Glendale, supposedly made by [redacted] in which she said that she was not in the room at the time subject shot himself. [redacted] called the Evangelism Center and they knew nothing about the existence of such a tape. [redacted] requested that [redacted] appear at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office concerning this matter, however, he was advised that [redacted] was currently in Washington, D.C. b6 b7C b7E

Detective [redacted] has inquired if the FBI Laboratory has any information concerning the type of handguns available to Soviet military services and, in particular, to the Soviet Navy, and whether or not revolvers are in common military use in that country. If, for instance, automatic pistols are the main handgun available to Soviet officers and crewmen, it would possibly tend to explain subject's ignorance in the operation of a revolver, if in fact, death was accidental. [redacted] pointed out that investigation to date still indicates KOURDAKOV accidentally shot himself. b6 b7C

[redacted] b7E

On 1/15/72, Detective [redacted] advised that his office b6 b7C
has received information from [redacted] Chief Special
Agent, Internal Security Sub-Committee, Washington, D.C. that
a bank account in the amount of $200,000 had been located in
Canada in subject's name. [redacted] had no additional information
concerning this matter. [redacted] advised that [redacted] Coroner,
is still in Washington, D.C.

Los Angeles files contain a copy of subject's I-94 furnished by letterhead memorandum from the Minneapolis Office, showing that he entered the United States by automobile on 7/25/72 from Canada. This communication contains a notation signed by [redacted] Supervisory Immigrant b6 b7C
Inspector, Portal, North Dakota, stating subject was a Russian crewman who jumped ship in September 1971, at Quebec City, Quebec, and was granted landed immigrant status on 9/22/71. He was destined to Winona Lake, Indiana, for two days to attend an Evangelist meeting. He would then go to the Evangelism Center, Glendale, to give lectures on Evangelism.

The arrival of subject at Quebec City, Quebec, as reported above, is discrepant to other information concerning subject's arrival in British Columbia and, therefore, is possibly erroneous.

Los Angeles will maintain contact with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office regarding this matter and will forward subject's manuscript to the Bureau when it is released by the Coroner.

REQUEST OF BUREAU

The Laboratory is requested to furnish any information available concerning current handguns commonly used by Soviet military personnel, as explained above.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California
January 16, 1973

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-22-01 BY 39063 lcdw/BCP/pk

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV,
ALSO KNOWN AS

The following individuals were interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI as to their knowledge of Sergei Nikolay Kourdakov, born March 1, 1951, in Novosivirsk, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, who according to investigation conducted to date by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, apparently shot himself accidentally with a .38 caliber revolver on January 1, 1973, at a motel in Running Springs, California.

On January 9, 1973, [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] Van Nuys, California, advised that he is a [redacted] at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Glendale Station, 1335 West Glenoaks Boulevard, Glendale, California.

On August 15, 1972, he gave Kourdakov a drivers test, which he successfully passed. Kourdakov was driving a medium sized automobile, make unrecalled, and listed his residence as 250 South Oak Knoll Drive, Pasadena, California. His former address was given as 1222 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale, California. [redacted] recalled that Kourdakov had either a Russian Drivers License or an international drivers license. Kourdakov told [redacted] that he enjoyed swimming. [redacted] himself was a former swimmer in school. Kourdakov said his father was a General under Stalin, and when Khrushchev took over, his father was shot. In addition, Kourdakov's brothers and sisters were taken away and he lost track of them. Kourdakov stated he joined the naval service with the ultimate purpose of some day getting out of the Soviet Union. He became a submarine officer and transferred from a Russian submarine to a trawler in the area of Hawaii, and later jumped ship off the coast of Canada. He did not discuss his duties in the military service. Kourdakov added that he was part Jewish. [redacted] b6 b7C

105-230565

noticed that Kourdakov spoke good English. Kourdakov told [redacted] that on one occasion, some Russians from an embassy or a consulate came to his apartment and tried to get him to return to the Soviet Union, however, he refused. They then told him that if he stays in the United States, he should keep his mouth shut or he would meet with an accident. [redacted] stated Kourdakov did not give further details concerning this and he (Kourdakov) did not say when this occurred or if it took place in Canada or in the United States. Kourdakov did not mention the names or furnish the description of the Russians who visited him. b6 b7C

Kourdakov stated that at one time he worked for a radio company that made broadcasts to iron curtain countries, however, [redacted] did not recall the name of this radio company. [redacted] stated that Kourdakov was very happy and indicated that he wanted to stay in the United States. Kourdakov did not discuss with [redacted] any other threats he had received from the Russians, other than the incident mentioned above. b6 b7C

On January 10, 1973 [redacted], Running Springs, California (telephone number [redacted], advised that Kourdakov was in [redacted] during the evening of December 30, 1972, and had a couple of drinks. Kourdakov spoke English with a "bad accent" and [redacted] through conversation, learned Kourdakov was Russian. [redacted] himself was born in [redacted] Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and came to the United States in [redacted] he is now a United States citizen. [redacted] spoke with Kourdakov in the Russian language for about an hour. Kourdakov would not discuss himself and gave evasive answers to most of [redacted] questions, which were mostly of a social nature in order to get acquainted. Kourdakov said his name was "Yuriy" and did not give his full name. He said he did not like Russia and would rather live in the United States or Canada. When asked where he worked, Kourdakov said he was just loafing, and would not give a direct answer. [redacted] invited Kourdakov to a New Year's Eve party, but Kourdakov did not say whether or not he would attend it. Kourdakov appeared uneasy during the entire conversation. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated Kourdakov had two drinks and had ordered a third. He then appeared very nervous and got up, said goodbye, and remarked that he did not think he would be b6 b7C

living long. He left without finishing the third drink. [redacted] stated Kourdakov gave no reason for his being uneasy, and [redacted] had no idea why Kourdakov made the remark he did when he left. [redacted] further stated that during their conversation, Kourdakov made no mention at all of ever having received any threats to his life from other Russians. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated he did not know that "Yuriy" actually Kourdakov, until he read an article in the paper regarding Kourdakov's death and saw the photograph of Kourdakov in the paper. [redacted] stated he then notified the authorities concerning Kourdakov's appearance at his bar. b6 b7C

Attached hereto his a copy of an article concerning Kourdakov entitled "Anti-Red Groups Split by Death of Defector", which appeared in Part II, Page I of the January 11, 1973 edition of the "Los Angeles Times", Los Angeles, California.

ONE HINTS AT FOUL PLAY

Anti-Red Groups Split by Death of Defector

BY JOHN DART
Timer Religion Writer

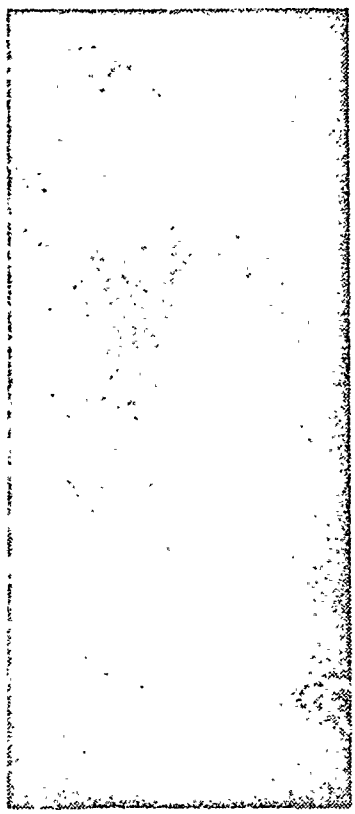
Russian defector Sergei Kourdakov will be buried today in a Washington, D.C., cemetery, but his New Year's shooting death in California continues to stir up rival Christian anti-Communist groups.

Underground Evangelism of Glendale, which had been sponsoring Kourdakov as an example of Communist-turned-Christian, is hinting to supporters foul play was possible in the death—though investigators believe Kourdakov died accidentally.

L. Joe Bass, founder-president of the organization, said the day after the shooting that he was all but convinced San Bernardino County authorities were correct in considering the death more likely an accident than a suicide, and ruling out foul play.

Later in the week, however, Underground Evanglism issued a publicity release that Kourdakov had died under circumstances described by unnamed persons as "strange" and "uncertain."

Bass said in the release that Kourdakov once told him, "If you ever hear I have had an accident or committed suicide, don't believe it. I know how the Soviet police work because I was one of them."



Sergei Kourdakov

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-8-03 BY 32063

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Part II, page 1, edition of 1/11/73

Found in Motel

Kourdakov, 21, was found fatally shot in the head Jan. 1 in a San Bernardino Mountains motel room he was sharing with Ann Johnson, 17, daughter of a Cerritos family with whom he boarded.

His body was sent to Washington where funeral services began Wednesday night with an English service led by the Rev. Richard Halverson, a prominent Presbyterian pastor. A service in Russian will be held today at a Russian Orthodox church with burial in a Russian section of a Washington cemetery.

Kourdakov had jumped from a Soviet trawler in the Pacific in September, 1971, and swam to the Canadian shore. The onetime Communist youth leader and apprentice radio operator accepted Christianity subsequently in a Toronto Pentecostal church.

Last year, Bass contacted Kourdakov in Canada and employed the young convert for a series of church appearances in the United States.

The circumstances of Kourdakov's death—in a one-room motel unit with a teen-age girl and a half-consumed wine bottle—has caused comment in church circles, but public criticism has been aimed at Underground Evangelism's handling of the new Christian.

The Rev. Richard Wurmbrand, general director of Jesus to the Communist World, Inc., another Glendale-based mission organization, fired off a letter Jan. 4 to Underground Evangelism directors, reviewing past differences and commenting on the Kourdakov incident.

Kourdakov "should not have been brought on the stage with its perils before having been for a few years a simple member of a church growing in grace and knowledge," wrote Mr. Wurmbrand, himself a onetime political prisoner in Romania.

The Rev. Myrus Knutson, a Lutheran pastor in the San Gabriel Valley and board chairman of Jesus to the Communist World, said he believes the young Russian was "exploited" by Underground Evangelism.

"It may be unfair to say it, but they (Underground Evangelism) smelled money," Mr. Knutson said.

(Two of the largest organizations devoted to Bible smuggling and oth-

er "mission" work to Communist countries "will probably raise close to $2.5 million each year," according to a study published in the December issue of Eternity magazine.)

Russian Baptist church members in the Los Angeles area who heard Kourdakov speak at a Santa Ana church last year generally felt he "should not have been thrust into such a situation—speaking on subjects 'completely beyond him,'" according to Andrew Semenchuk, West Coast representative of the Slavic Gospel Assn.

Underground Evangelism replied, however, that it was "interested in his spiritual development," which included informal Christian studies at Denver's Calvary Temple and with an interdenominational Christian group in Washington.

As to charges of exploitation, Ray Southard of Underground Evangelism said the young Russian had only 20 speaking engagements in a four-to-five month period.

Holiday Weekend

The New Year's weekend was to be a respite in Kourdakov's schedule, which had included golfing last Thursday and Disneyland Friday. The next day the Russian and Miss Johnson drove to the Big Bear-Running Springs area with the knowledge of Miss Johnson's family, according to an Underground Evangelism spokesman.

Kourdakov said he would teach the girl to ski and they would rent a two-room unit, but were able to find only a one-room unit, the spokesman said. Kourdakov also took along a typewriter and questionnaires to be completed in applying for a permanent U.S. visa late in January.

A .38-caliber revolver

was loaned to Kourdakov by the girl's father since the Russian had expressed concern about his safety. Kourdakov reportedly received threats while in Canada and during one of his two speaking appearances at the large Garden Grove Community Drive-In Church last fall.

Sheriff's Det. James Cox said Miss Johnson told him Kourdakov showed her the revolver New Year's Eve, explaining that the one empty chamber was positioned so the gun would not fire the first time the trigger was pulled.

Cylinder Revolved

Cox would not describe the evidence in detail because the investigation is continuing, but he and the coroner indicated earlier that the Russian was handling the revolver in the room when it discharged.

Cox said he "didn't know what Kourdakov was thinking when he told the girl about the empty chamber," but the gun was of a type that revolves the cylinder one turn when the trigger is pulled.

Though a coroner's final report has not been made, "all indications are that he shot himself," Cox said, "and it tends to appear more accidental that a suicide."

Underground Evangelism officials have flatly ruled out suicide, described as a possible cause of death in the earliest news reports.

The evangelistic organization said the Russian was an "uninhibited, even boisterous" person who was making plans for 1973, including shopping for a car and dining with actor Pat Boone the first week in January.

"Attempts since his death to discredit Sergei's work," said Bass in his publicity release, "give further credence to beliefs of those most deeply involved with him that ominous implications surround his death."

There had been little doubt of Kourdakov's importance to Underground Evangelism's fund raising.

Kourdakov had become the feature of the organization's literature. "Thrill to Sergei Kourdakov's story of conversion, after having led more than 150 raids on Siberian underground churches," reads the organization's magazine offering the taped story for $4.

(Part of Kourdakov's "story" to churches was that he and other youth leaders would sometimes work for the police to physically break up meetings of Christians and destroy Bibles.)

Program Criticized

The sensationalist aspects of advertising by Underground Evangelism, Jesus to the Communist World and other evangelistic groups engaged in "smuggling Bibles" into Communist countries or beaming religious programs was criticized recently by a Pennsylvania pastor in two evangelical magazines, though Bass' group was called the "most sophisticated and respectable" among them.

At the same time, Underground Evangelism has had its disagreements with emigrees once associated with its organization — including Richard Wurmbrand himself in the late 1960s and former Bulgarian prisoner Haralan Popov, who left Bass a few months ago in a management disagreement. Popov started his own mission organization in Glendale, called Evangelism to the Communist Lands.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-17-2014 by: J75J65T61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES

CODE

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SAC LOS ANGELES

FROM ACTING DIRECTOR FBI

2/5/73

1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. D. W. Bowers
1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, AKA; IS - R.

RELAAIRTEL 1/24/73.

WFO SHOULD NOT INTERVIEW JOHN BROGER, PENTAGON, SINCE HE INFORMED THE BUREAU IN AUGUST, 1972, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH KOURDAKOV WAS BASED ON HIS AFFILIATION WITH THE SAME RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION AND HE WAS MERELY MAKING THE SUBJECT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

LOS ANGELES SHOULD TACTFULLY ADVISE CORONER THAT THE FBI WILL NOT SEND A WFO AGENT TO TESTIFY AT A CORONER'S HEARING SINCE THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN THE INTERVIEW OF SUBJECT IN AUGUST, 1972, HAS NO BEARING ON HIS DEATH IN JANUARY, 1973. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY AND NOT TO BE GIVEN TO THE CORONER, DURING THAT INTERVIEW KOURDAKOV ASKED IF THE FBI WOULD RESTRICT HIS ACTIVITIES AND IF WE WOULD OFFER HIM PROTECTION DUE TO THREATS MADE IN CANADA AND THE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS WAS GIVEN NEGATIVELY. ADVISE AND DETECTIVE THAT THEIR REQUEST FOR HAS BEEN FURNISHED TO COPY BEING MAILED WFO

b6 b7C b7D b7E

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 05 1973

- WFO (BY MAIL)

JL:aeh (7)

TELETYPE

NOTE: See memorandum W. A. Branigan to Mr. E. S. Miller dated 2/1/73 captioned as above prepared by JPL:aeh.

SECRET

TELETYPE UNIT

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-23-2014 by: J75J65T61

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

~~SECRET~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

FBI

Date: 1/24/73

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF~~ DATE 5/24/85

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

CLASSIFIED BY 3406 3 ~~Chief Clerk~~
DECLASSIFY ON: ~~25X~~ 6

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 1/15/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Washington Field Office (WFO), is one (1) copy each of a newspaper article concerning subject which appeared in "The Register" newspaper of Santa Ana, California, on 1/19/73.

On 1/17/73, Detective [redacted] San Bernardino County, California, Sheriff's Office, (SBSO), stated he interviewed [redacted] of the Underground Evangelism group, 1222 Glendale Boulevard, Glendale, California, on 1/16/73. [redacted] was born [redacted] and is described as a white male, [redacted] tall, [redacted] pounds, and he resides at [redacted] La Canada, California. [redacted] was born on [redacted] brought his own tape recorder and recorded the interview. [redacted] stated was non-committal about his religious group and would not state whether or not he was an [redacted] which denied the existence of a reported tape recording on [redacted] in the room when subject shot himself. [redacted] stated she was not

b6
b7C
b7E

REC-27 [redacted]

REC 27

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE
2 - Washington Field (Enc. 1)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/clp
(6)

Classified by: P Mayfield
Declassify on: OADR
5/10/85

3 2-6 JAN 30 1973

ST-111

ESPIONAGE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] advised that he had attempted unsuccessfully b6 b7C
to reach JOHN BROGER at telephone number (202) OX7-6125, in the Washington, D. C., area. [redacted] stated BROGER supposedly recommended the subject to Congressman EARL LANGREBE, so that the subject would be granted entry into the United States. [redacted] feels that an interview of BROGER is desirable to determine his interest in the subject and the Underground Evangelism group, how he met the subject, and whether or not he was speaking for his agency when he recommended the subject to Congressman LANGREBE. Los Angeles feels that an interview of BROGER is warranted as part of our inquiry to verify the nature of any threats that may have been made against the subject by the Soviets. [redacted] stated he was advised by Congressman LANGREBE that BROGER had subject's body examined in Washington, D. C., and BROGER was satisfied that subject had shot himself. [redacted] added that Coroner [redacted] San Bernardino County, learned that BROGER wanted to forget the whole matter concerning the subject. U

[redacted] advised that subject's manuscripts were b6 b7C
retained in Washington, D. C., for further examination and were in the care of Special Agent [redacted] of the Sub-Committee on Internal Affairs. U

(U) According to [redacted] an inquest will be held by the San Bernardino County Coroner [redacted] in mid-February to clear up the death of subject, as far as possible. Both [redacted] and [redacted] have requested that the Bureau contact [redacted] and request [redacted] to contact the SBSO in order to verify details concerning [redacted] and to discuss the possibility of having [redacted] appear and testify at the inquest. Coroner [redacted] has also inquired if it would be possible for the Special Agents of the FBI who interviewed subject in Washington, D. C., to appear and testify at the inquest if necessary. [redacted] was interested in determining to what extent Special Agents of the FBI could testify regarding facts in subject's background and concerning statements made by the subject. U

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

SECRET

[redacted] (U)

b7E

CONGRESSMAN EARL LANGREBE (U)

On 1/24/73, [redacted] advised that the coroner's inquest regarding subject's death is tentatively scheduled for 2/20/73. [redacted] stated he was advised by a letter from Congressman EARL F. LANGREBE that the Congressman had asked the FBI to investigate the Underground Evangelism movement. [redacted] stated Congressman LANGREBE was unhappy with [redacted] because he (LANGREBE), had apparently given a speech for the Evangelist group in Indiana on 7/23/72. [redacted] added that he had notified the Internal Revenue Service and the California Tax Franchise Board regarding the Underground Evangelism group and he anticipated that these agencies will make an inquiry concerning this Evangelism group as to possible fraudulent activities. [redacted] pointed out that in one month the subject made $16,000 on a speaking tour for the Underground Evangelism group of which the subject received ten percent. (U)

b6
b7C

D.C. INFO.

[redacted] stated that in his opinion, JOHN BROGER is the individual who originally contacted various Congressmen concerning the circumstances surrounding subject's death. (U)

b6
b7C

REQUEST OF BUREAU (U)

(U) The Bureau is requested to contact [redacted] and present the request of the SBSO, as set out above. (S)

b7D

It is also requested that the Bureau comment on the availability and extent to which Special Agents who had personal contact with the subject will be able to testify at the coroner's inquest, if necessary. (U)

LEADS (U)

WASHINGTON FIELD (U)

WFO, WASHINGTON, D. C.: It is noted that the enclosed newspaper clipping describes JOHN BROGER as the Assistant Secretary of Defense and one of subject's closest friends. WFO is requested to interview BROGER along the (U)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

[redacted] U

b7E

guidelines set out above provided no information is available or received from the Bureau which would preclude the advisability of the interview. If interviewed, in addition to the above items, BROGER should be questioned concerning any knowledge he may have of any specific threats that may have been made against subject's life. U

LOS ANGELES: U

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Will maintain contact with SBSO regarding any developments in this matter. U

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-23-2014 by: J75J65T61

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

FROM : W. A. Branigan

1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan

DATE: 2/1/73

1 - Mr. D. W. Bowers
1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Purvis
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Ms. Herwig
Mr. Mintz
Mrs. Neenan

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

Memorandum reports a request by the Coroner, San Bernardino County, California, for information and testimony from [redacted] b7D
(U) and Bureau Agents concerning the subject.

Kourdakov is the 21 year old Soviet seaman who defected in Canada in 1971 and later entered the U.S. and who accidentally killed himself in California on January 1, 1973. Information developed reveals that Kourdakov and [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] were in a motel room and he was showing her a revolver which [redacted] had given to him for his protection. In order to demonstrate that the gun was safe, he put it to his head and pulled the trigger at which time the gun fired and killed him. No evidence has been found of any Soviet intelligence interest connected with his death.

Kourdakov had been active in evangelical work and at the request of Mr. John C. Broger, Director, Office of Information for the Armed Forces, Pentagon, we interviewed Kourdakov in August, 1972. He [redacted] b7E
[redacted] and asked if we would restrict his activities in the U.S. and would we afford him protection due to threats which had been made against him in Canada. He was given a negative answer on both questions.

Detective [redacted] San Bernardino Sheriff's Office b6 b7C
(SBSO), advised our Los Angeles Office that [redacted], Coroner, San Bernardino County, plans to hold an inquest on or [redacted] b7E

Enclosure [redacted]

JPL:aeh (5)

CONTINUED - OVER

54 FEB 21 1973

FEB 7 1973

CLASSIFIED BY 3346 3EE/RSE/PLJ
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 2-9-98

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
Re: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka [redacted] b7E

February 20, 1973. Both [redacted] and [redacted] have requested that b6 b7C b7D
the Bureau contact [redacted] and ask [redacted]
[redacted] to contact the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office to
verify details concerning [redacted] and to discuss
the possibility of [redacted]
(U) [redacted] U.S. Coroner [redacted] also inquired if it
would be possible for the Special Agents of the FBI who
interviewed the subject in Washington to appear and testify
at the inquest if necessary. [redacted] also reported that
Congressman Earl F. Landgrebe (R-IND) had sent a letter D.C.
stating that he had asked the FBI to investigate the Under-
ground Evangelism movement with which the subject was
connected. [redacted] has advised that he notified the Internal
Revenue Service and the California Tax Franchise Board
regarding the Underground Evangelism movement and he antici-
pates these agencies would make an inquiry concerning
possible fraudulent activities on the part of that group.

Request of [redacted] and [redacted] was telephonically furnished b6 b7C b7D
to [redacted]
[redacted] on January 31, 1973, for whatever action
(U) [redacted] deems advisable. (S)

Inasmuch as the purpose of the Coroner's hearing is to establish the cause of the subject's death, any information in possession of the WFO Agents who interviewed Kourdakov in August, 1972, would have no bearing on his death in January, 1973, and in view of this no Agent should be dispatched to testify at a Coroner's hearing in California.

SECRET

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
Re: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
[redacted] b7E

No request to investigate the Underground Evangelism movement has been received from Congressman Landgrebe; however, members of his staff have inquired of Inspector David Bowers as to whether or not this group has been the subject of an investigation and they have been told that the group was never the subject of an investigation.

The Los Angeles Office also recommended that John Broger be interviewed to verify the nature of any threats which might have been made against the subject by the Soviets. No interview with Mr. Broger should be conducted since it was determined in August, 1972, from Mr. Broger that his connection with Kourdakov was strictly based on his affiliation with the same religious organization and based on that he was making Kourdakov available for interview [redacted] b7E

ACTION:

There is attached a teletype to the Los Angeles Office and WFO instructing, if you approve, that:

1. Los Angeles to tactfully advise Coroner [redacted] b6 b7C that the Bureau will not send a WFO Agent to testify since his information would not be pertinent.

(U) 2. Request of Detective [redacted] and Coroner [redacted] for information from [redacted] had been passed to [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

3. WFO is instructed not to interview John Broger.

JPL

WGC DEM

3

REC-32

REC-113

MCT-14

[redacted]

NOT RECORDED

5 FEB 14 1973

[redacted] b7E

3 ENCLOSURES

[redacted]

58 FEB 26 1973

SECRET

[redacted]

5-113a (9-29-65)

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 2/26/73

Attached relates to Sergei Nikolay Kourdakov, Soviet trawler seaman who defected to Canada during 1971 and subsequently entered the U.S. Kourdakov killed himself in what appears to be an accidental discharge of revolver while demonstrating safe condition of weapon to [redacted] at Running Springs, California, motel during morning 1/1/73. Coroner's inquest into death commenced at San Bernardino, California, 2/20/73; however, Congressman Earl F. Landgrebe (R-Indiana) has requested suspension of inquest until 3/1/73 in order to resolve information furnished by unidentified source who reportedly stated subject did not die accidentally but was assassinated. b6 b7C

We are closely following developments in this matter to insure knowledge of any sinister ramifications.

ACTION: None. For information.

AES:aeh

-27

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-13-01 BY 39063 Edw/Beg/Dr

REC-10 [redacted] b7E

February 26, 1972

EX-127 [redacted] b6 b7C

Reverend [redacted]
Eastview Baptist Church
3828 Mitthoefer Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46236

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-9-01 39863 Glw/Bce/DK

Dear [redacted] b6 b7C

Thank you for your letter of February 15th, with enclosures. Your thoughtfulness in writing and kind comments are indeed appreciated.

Based on the facts presented in the leaflet you enclosed, there has been no violation of any Federal law coming within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI; therefore, we cannot take the action you suggested. I hope you will understand our inability to be of assistance in this instance.

Sincerely yours,
L. Patrick Gray III

MAILED 8
FEB 26 1973
FBI

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles show prior correspondence with [redacted] in 1969 and June, 1972. They contain no derogatory information regarding him. (94-82212) Bufiles indicate we have had previous inquiries concerning "Underground Evangelism" and that this publication solicits funds for "Christian Prisoners Behind the Iron Curtain." His enclosed leaflet sets forth the details concerning the death of Sergei Kourdakov. Bufiles show Kourdakov was a Soviet seaman who defected to Canada in 1971 and later entered the U. S. He accidentally killed himself in California on January 1, 1973. Information developed revealed that Kourdakov and [redacted] were in a motel room and he was showing her a revolver which his father had given him for his protection. In demonstrating that the gun was safe, he put it to his head and pulled the trigger at which time the gun fired and killed him. The matter is being investigated by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office. This letter is being routed to the Domestic Intelligence Division for information since Kourdakov is the subject of Bufile [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

eft:mks (3)

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Purvis
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Ms. Herwig
Mr. Mintz
Mrs. Neenan

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

THESE THINGS have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
I JOHN. 5:13

Eastview Baptist Church

3828 Mitthoefer Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46236

Rev. [redacted], Pastor b6 b7C
Church phone 898-5681
Home phone 898-2608
[redacted]
Indianapolis, Indiana 46236

2/15/73

Dear Mr Gray,

Dear Sir, it has been brought to my attention after receiving a paper UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM that a Christian died for his faith. Is there anyway that the FBI could investigate into to this matter or is this out of there jurisdiction?
As a preacher of the Word Of God such events trouble be and I know of no one who might be able to help in case this might happen to me someday. [redacted] b6 b7C
Thank you for taking time to read my letter, and if I do appreciate the work that you are doing, and I stand in back of you for your upholding of law and order in this our great country of America.

A sincere thank you.

[redacted] b6 b7C
Pastor.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-20-01 BY 340 [illegible]

[redacted] b7E

REC-10

EX-117

12 FEB 28 1973

ENCLOSURE

ack 2-26-73 ltr mailed

CORRESPONDENCE

"The Church with a Burden for Souls"

SERGEI KOURDAKOV KILLED

"RUSS DEFECTOR DEATH UNDER PROBE"

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, January 2

"DEFECTOR'S DEATH CAUSE MYSTERY"

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, January 3.

FIRST REPORTED AS SUICIDE, THEN CHANGED:

"The case took on a mysterious air yesterday when the coroner did not agree with sheriff's deputies that Kourdakov was the victim of apparent suicide." Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, January 3.

KOURDAKOV HAD WARNED HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER. TOLD MANY HIS DEATH WOULD LOOK LIKE SUICIDE OR ACCIDENT, "BUT DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT!" HE CAUTIONED.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-4-01 BY 34863 Eld/BCE/DK

L. JOE BASS

UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM

January 1973

Dear UE Co-Worker:

Mine is the sad task this month to tell you of the sudden homegoing of our fellow UE worker and my dear friend, Sergei Kourdakov.

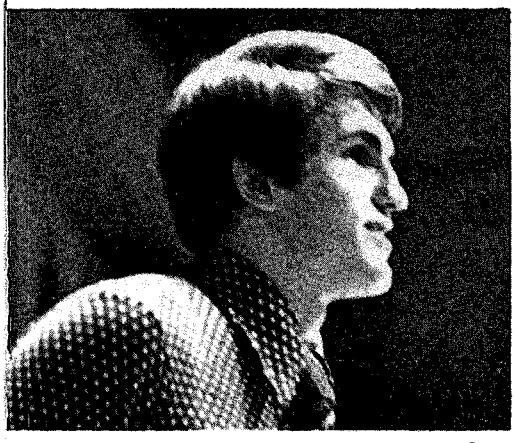
Because of the mystery and confusion surrounding Sergei's untimely death, I must set the record straight, from the facts as we have them at this time, on these points:

Continued on page 3

b7E

ENCLOSURE

"HE LOVED LIFE MORE THAN ANYONE I HAD EVER SEEN." L. Joe Bass
A LOOK AT SERGEI IN LIFE



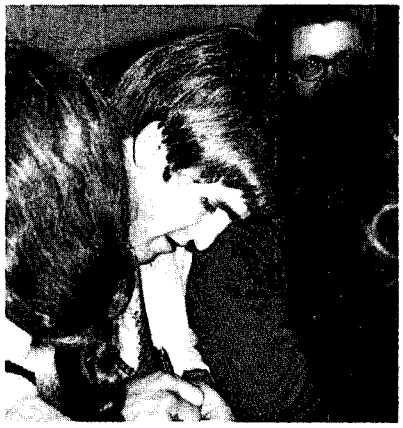
He joyfully testified concerning Christ at every opportunity.

Young people loved him and he loved them. Here he shares his testimony on campus with college youth.

Sergei loved his Bible and always had one at hand. Within months of his arrival in Canada, he owned fourteen Bibles. "I burned this Book in Russia. Now it has changed my life."

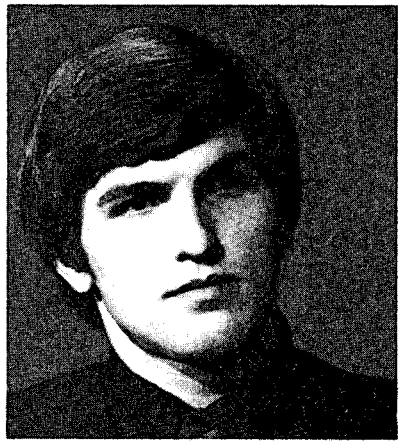
No pulpit could contain his effervescent, overflowing Russian vitality. Though raised an orphan, his love for people shone through his natural exuberance, and charmed all who heard him. (Here he illustrates an incident from his life in Russia.)

Sergei never tired of talking to young people about Jesus Christ.

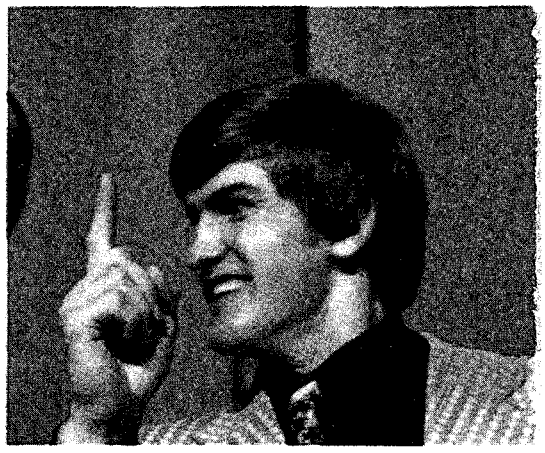


Sergei loved people and after every meeting he was surrounded by young and old. His infectious personality and joyful exuberance attracted all ages.

Sergei shows L. Joe Bass a place in Russia where he raided an underground church and found one of UE's Bibles, identical to the one in his hand.



On national television, speaking out of first-hand experience, Sergei earnestly told the plight of Believers in Russia. Shown here during a TV interview.



He loved to tell everybody there was only "One Way" — Jesus Christ.

Continued from page 1

The threats against Sergei's life
His own beliefs in those threats
His recent fear
The perfect place and time
Unanswered questions and mysteries
Attempts to discredit Sergei
His continuing work.

We know that God is "keeping the books," but I want to share with you, here, the truth as I know it concerning Sergei's death:

THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE. Though there were several, it was the one made against him on Dundas Street West, in Toronto, that Sergei took most seriously. He knew its source and he was concerned.

He was warned to remain silent "or have an accident, the last you'll ever have."

Later, I asked Sergei if he'd had any more threats on his life. He replied, "No, I haven't, and I won't have. They don't threaten twice. Once, and then they act." The authorities, informed of that particular threat, also regarded it as serious. Sergei spoke of it to many, revealing his concern.

HIS OWN BELIEFS IN THOSE THREATS. Sergei firmly believed his life was in danger. He said so on many occasions. If anything did happen to him, he often said, it would "have all the appearances of an accident." That's what he told a group of seven pastors and Christian laymen on Monday, October 9, 1972, when questioned about the danger to his life.

Once, while Sergei and I were traveling in New Jersey, we heard someone's death reported on radio as "suicide or accident." Afterwards, Sergei looked pensively at me and said, "That's the way it'll be for me. It will look like an accident or suicide."

Another time, when someone said to Sergei, "I don't see so much danger to your life," he replied, "I am in considerable danger. I know how they work, because I was one of them." It was clear to all that he took the threats on his life seriously.

HIS RECENT FEAR. A short time ago, while in Washington, D.C., he indicated that he feared for his life, and that he needed a weapon for his self protection. He even asked several persons to help him get one. He felt he was being followed and an "accident" was being "arranged."

But he remained steadfast in the work to which God had called him. Offered the opportunity to go to college and change his life style for one of quiet and reasonable security, he declined, stating, "I owe it to my people to continue; I cannot be silent." That was his constant aim, even though, as recently as one week before his death, he expressed fear that he would lose his life in an "accident." Yet, he refused to let this possibility upset his normally jubilant, effervescent self.

THE PERFECT PLACE AND TIME. What better time than midnight on New Year's Eve, and what better place than that small, tourist-packed resort area, for Sergei Kourdakov to have an "accident?"

It's a rural county, mainly desert and mountains, with a small population and relatively small law enforcement staff. And it happened on the very day of the year during which most police forces are extremely busy, due to holiday accidents and incidents.

At first glance it looked like suicide. And that was the investigating authorities' earliest impression. Sergei had warned it would appear that way.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND MYSTERIES. Though facts uncovered immediately after Sergei's death seemed to indicate suicide, they were soon shrouded in mystery.

Just one example of all the unanswered questions: Sergei was thought to have been shot by a .38 caliber weapon, which makes a very loud report when fired. Why didn't the people in the very next room hear the gun go off? (They did hear a thump like the sound of a falling body.) Why was the sound totally inconsistent with a normal sound made by such a weapon?

These and other mysteries surrounding Sergei's death have not yet been resolved.

As one Washington source said, "If this fits the pattern of previous defectors' deaths, all the facts will never be fully known."

ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT SERGEI BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS DEATH. Almost as though planned in advance, news immediately flashed around the world apparently aimed at discrediting Sergei's work, now that his life had ended:

Rumor one: "Suicide." At home and abroad it was reported that Sergei was unhappy and had killed himself. Yet all the pastors and Christian workers, intimately associated with Sergei over the past two months, stated that "he was never happier and more full of life."

Rumor two: "He did not believe in God." This rumor was printed widely and distributed internationally. Experienced pastors, under whose ministries he sat during his last two months, testified that he was growing spiritually in the Lord and was one of the most deeply sincere Christian men they had met.

Rumor three: "A scandal or misconduct with a girl." This report, too, has been widely circulated. However, concrete evidence in the hands of authorities fully disproves these accusations. Official sources completely rule out any misconduct in relation to a girl.

Rumor four: "He was a Communist, a 'plant,' a secret Communist agent." The major investigatory agencies of two large nations, the United States and Canada, thoroughly investigated Sergei and accepted his story in full as completely authentic.

The foregoing rumors were spread internationally within hours after his death, and fit the long-term Communist pattern: the removal of the man first, then the discrediting of his work.

SERGEI'S WORK MUST AND WILL CONTINUE. Persons to whom Sergei spoke hours before his death stated, "Sergei said he was doing what he wanted to do because it was the Lord's work. He stated that he loved what he was doing, and spoke of his joy in working with Underground Evangelism."

Sergei had often warned of the dangers of continuing to speak, but only replied, "I owe it." When asked to explain, he said, "I owe it to the Believers I beat, and persecuted, and others like them. I owe it to them to tell their story. I must do it, whatever the danger." (He said this to many.)

Sergei was totally committed to his God and his people. The memory of his involvement in the persecution of Believers in Russia before his conversion caused him deep anguish of soul. As a Believer, he lived only to tell the story of persecution of the Believers in Russia and to help relieve their suffering. He was totally committed to a program of getting the Word of God to his people by way of radio and the printed page.

The work which Sergei was doing must be continued. We cannot bring him back to serve any longer in person. But what was near and dear to him will be continued, in his memory and in tribute to his love and dedication.

To this end Underground Evangelism has established the Sergei Kourdakov Memorial Fund, which shall be designated one hundred percent for Bibles and scriptures, for literature and radio broadcasting, to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Russian people.

If you would care to honor the memory of Sergei and his commitment to God and the Believers of Russia, you may do so by contributing to the special Memorial Fund. Through this Fund, you can help continue the work to which Sergei had devoted his life.

He came to us with no mother, father, brothers or sisters. He left us with thousands of mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Thank you for your loving memory of this courageous young man.

"A MAN'S LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY ITS DURATION, BUT BY ITS DONATION." (Peter Marshall)

Yours in Christ,

L. Joe Bass, President
UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

plan. It is **SCRIPTURAL. IT IS GOD'S PLAN.** My friend, **BELIEVE IT AND FOLLOW IT TODAY.** Now is the time—Today is the day.

"Behold, **NOW** is the accepted time; behold, **NOW** is the day of salvation."—2 Corinthians 6:2.

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."—Proverbs 27:1.

If it is not perfectly clear, **READ IT OVER** and **OVER** until you understand it. Do not lay this tract down until you do. **YOUR SOUL** is worth more than all the world.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose **HIS OWN SOUL?** Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"—Mark 8:36, 37.

BE SURE YOU ARE SAVED. YOU NEED SALVATION ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE. IF YOU LOSE YOUR SOUL YOU MISS HEAVEN AND LOSE ALL. GOD HELP YOU TO BE SAVED TODAY.

He will save you and also **KEEP YOU**

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."—1 Corinthians 10:13.

DO NOT trust your feelings. They change. **STAND** on **GOD'S PROMISES.** They **NEVER** change.

AFTER YOU ARE SAVED THERE ARE THREE THINGS TO PRACTICE DAILY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

PRAY—You talk to God. **READ YOUR BIBLE**—God talks to you. **WITNESS**—You talk for God.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in Heaven."—Matthew 10:32. Author—Ford Porter

If you are saved, send us word that we may rejoice with you. Address: ***LIFEGATE, P. O. Box 891, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. 46206.***

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION copies of THIS TRACT have been produced in more than eighty languages and Braille. If interested in helping to reach the lost, order a supply. Specify—#DLX

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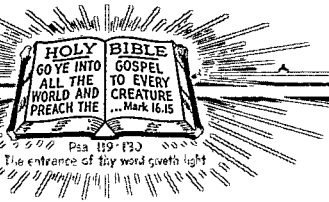

GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION

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3828 N. Mitthoeffer Road
Indianapolis, Indiana

Sunday School	10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Training Hour (All Ages)	5:30 P.M.
Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer Service	7:30 P.M.

Free Bus Transportation—Call 898–5681

WILLIAM H. HEISLER, JR., PASTOR

"The Church with a Burden for Souls"

My Friend: I am asking you the most important question of life. Your joy or your sorrow for all **ETERNITY** depends upon it. The question is: Are you **SAVED?** It is not if you are a member of some church, but, Are you **SAVED?** It is not how good you are, but, **ARE YOU SAVED?** No one can enjoy the blessings of God or go to Heaven without being saved. Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:7 **"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."** God gives us in His Word the **ONLY** plan for Salvation. The Plan is simple, you can be saved **TODAY.**

First, my friend, you must realize **YOU ARE A SINNER.**

"There is none righteous, **no, not one."**—Romans 3:10.

"For there is no difference: For **ALL** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."—Romans 3:22, 23.

There is **NO CHANCE** to be saved unless you come to realize you are a **SINNER.**

Because *you are a sinner, you are* **CONDEMNED TO DIE.**

"For the wages of sin is death."—Romans 6:23.

"Sin, bringeth forth death."—James 1:15.

This means separation from God, in **HELL, FOREVER.** How terrible. Yes, my friend, but it is true. But God loved you so much that **HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,** Jesus Christ, as your **SUBSTITUTE,** Who bore **YOUR** sin, and died in **YOUR** place.

"He hath made **HIM** (Jesus) to be **SIN** for **US,** who knew no sin; that **WE** might **BE MADE** the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God in **HIM."**—2 Corinthians 5:21.

"Who His **OWN SELF** bare **OUR** sins in **HIS** own body on the tree, that **WE,** being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes **YE WERE HEALED."**—1 Peter 2:24.

Jesus had to die. He had to shed ***HIS* BLOOD.**

"For the **LIFE** of the flesh **IS IN THE BLOOD."**—Leviticus 17:11.

"Without *the* **SHEDDING OF BLOOD** *there* is no remission."—Hebrews 9:22.

Now we cannot understand how our sin was laid upon Jesus, but God says in **HIS WORD** that it was. **SO YOUR SIN,** my friend, was laid **UPON JESUS** and **HE DIED IN YOUR PLACE.** It is true. God cannot lie.

The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas: "What must **I DO** to be **SAVED?"**

"And they said, **BELIEVE** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **THOU SHALT BE SAVED,** and thy house."—Acts 16:31.

Simply believe on Him as the one who bore **YOUR SIN, DIED** in **YOUR PLACE,** was buried and was raised for **YOUR JUSTIFICATION.** Now call upon Him.

"For **WHOSOEVER** shall call upon the name of the Lord, **SHALL BE SAVED."**—Romans 10:13.

The first prayer for a **SINNER** to pray is given in Luke 18:13—"God be merciful **TO ME A SINNER."** Now you are a sinner and surely you are sorry because of it. Right **NOW,** wherever you are lift your heart to God in prayer. It does not take a long, loud prayer, for God is ***ANXIOUS*** *to save you. Just say: Oh God, I am a sinner,* I am sorry, I repent, have **MERCY** upon me, and **SAVE** me for Jesus' sake. Now just take **HIM** at His Word.

"For **WHOSOEVER,** (that includes **YOU**) shall call upon the name of the Lord, **SHALL BE SAVED, (SHALL BE,** not might or can, but) **SHALL BE SAVED."**—Romans 10:13.

Just take God at His **WORD.** When you have done what He has asked, **CLAIM SALVATION BY FAITH,** according to **HIS WORD. BELIEVE AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED.** No church, no lodge, no good works, **NO ONE BUT JESUS ONLY CAN SAVE YOU.**

The simple plan of salvation is: **YOU ARE A SINNER;** because you are a sinner you **MUST DIE** or else believe on Christ who was **YOUR SUBSTITUTE** and died in **YOUR PLACE,** was buried and was raised again. Just call upon **GOD, REALIZING** you are a sinner and ask Him to have mercy upon you and save you for **JESUS' SAKE.** Then just take **HIM AT HIS WORD** and **BY FAITH CLAIM SALVATION.** You say, "Surely that is not all that is necessary to do to be saved." Yes it is, absolutely all. Thank God many have been won to Christ by this simple

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-9-01 BY 39063 SLW/BCA/DK

b7E

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 28 1973

NR 017 LA CODE

710 PM NITEL 2-23-73 RWM

TELETYPE

TO ACTING DIRECTOR

FROM LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P) 2P.

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, AKA, IS - R; OO: LOS ANGELES.

ON 2/22/73, DETECTIVE [redacted] SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (SBSO), ADVISED CORONER'S INQUEST REGARDING SUBJECT'S DEATH BEGAN AT SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, ON 2/20/73, AND CONTINUED 2/21/73 AND 2/22/73. [redacted] STATED THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE EAST DURING AN APPARENT TALK ABOUT COMMUNISM AND A SHOWING OF A MOVIE CONCERNING THE SUBJECT, AN INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT SUBJECT DID NOT DIE ACCIDENTALLY BUT WAS ASSASSINATED. [redacted] DID NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL NOR THE LOCATION WHERE THE MOVIE WAS SHOWN. [redacted] SAID THE INFORMATION APPARENTLY CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESSMAN EARL LANDGREBE, WHO THEN REQUESTED CORONER

END PAGE ONE

b6
b7C
b7E

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-01 BY 39063 edw/BCE/SK

ST 100

REC 44 [redacted]

b7E

RECEIVED

23 FEB 28 1973

55 MAR 8 1973

[redacted] b7E

PAGE TWO

[redacted] TO SUSPEND THE INQUEST UNTIL 3/1/73, IN ORDER b6 b7C
THAT THIS MATTER CAN BE CLEARED UP. [redacted] DID NOT KNOW IF
CONGRESSMAN LANDGREBE WOULD TESTIFY AT THE INQUEST.

INQUEST HAS BEEN GIVEN LOCAL RADIO AND NEWSPAPER
COVERAGE. HEADLINE ARTICLE APPEARING IN LOS ANGELES HERALD
EXAMINER ON 2/23/73, STATED LANDGREBE TOLD CORONER [redacted]
"THIS DEATH WAS SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD",
AND THAT HE INDICATED HE HAD NEW EVIDENCE. [redacted] STATED, b6 b7C
ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THAT LANDGREBE IS EXPECTED TO
TESTIFY WHEN THE INQUEST CONTINUES ON 3/1/73.

[redacted] STATED HE SENT A LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT b6 b7C
OF STATE (USDS) REQUESTING IF THE SOVIET EMBASSY COULD FURNISH ANY
DATA REGARDING SUBJECT FOR PURPOSE OF VERIFYING HIS BACKGROUND.
THE LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY BY USDS AND HE
HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. [redacted] STATED HE PLANS TO CALL THE
SOVIET EMBASSY WITHIN A FEW DAYS IF HE DOES NOT GET A RESPONSE.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

LOS ANGELES WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE SBSO REGARDING
DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

END

HOLD

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

DATE: 3/9/73

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS-R
OO: Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-01 BY 3906 SCW/BCE/JDK

Re Seattle letter to Los Angeles dated 3/1/73 captioned "SERGEI KOURDAKOV, INFORMATION CONCERNING".

Enclosed for information of Seattle is one xerox copy of an article appearing in the Los Angeles Times on 3/2/73 which summarizes the events surrounding subject's death.

Subject was born on 3/1/51 in Novosibirsk, U.S.S.R. and jumped ship while serving as a radio operator on a Soviet trawler in 1971 and swam ashore near Vancouver, British Columbia. He subsequently entered the United States and was employed as a speaker by the Underground Evangelism group, 1222 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale, California. As indicated in the newspaper article, his death was ruled accidental by the coroner's jury in San Bernardino, California.

Detective [redacted] San Bernardino Sheriff's Office, San Bernardino, California, has advised that their investigation developed no information indicating foul play on the part of the Soviets or other individuals in regard to subject's death. b6 b7C

In view of the implications made in the letter received at Seattle from WILLIAM G. DORSING, Los Angeles feels this individual should be interviewed.

For information of the Bureau, Seattle received a letter from DORSING in which he indicated there was material available in the Bellingham area and State of Washington regarding subject, however, no specific details were mentioned. b6 b7C b7E

[redacted]

LEAD

REC-67

16 MAR 12 1973

EX-101

FIVE

(2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Seattle [redacted] (RM) b7E
1 - Los Angeles
PWJ/jly
(5)

MAR 15 1973

5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

[redacted]

b7E

SEATTLE

AT ACME, WASHINGTON: Interview WILLIAM G. DORSING, Box 97, Acme, Washington for any pertinent and positive information he may have concerning the subject.

EX-109

1 - Mr. J. P. Lee

SAC, Los Angeles [redacted] 4/3/73 b7E

Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R

Reurairtel 3/12/73.

Bureau does not desire to have WFO contact the Chief Investigator for the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security to determine the contents of a manuscript which was in the possession of the subject at the time of his death. Any such inquiry which Coroner [redacted] of San Bernardino County desires to have made should be made by his office and not by the Bureau. b6 b7C

2 - WFO

JPL:aeh (6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-01 BY 39063 Ela/BCE/RK

NOTE:

Kourdakov is a Soviet defector who accidentally killed himself, 1/1/73, in San Bernardino, California. The coroner of that county has been conducting a large scale investigation and has concluded that the subject accidentally killed himself. The coroner noted that some manuscript that had been in the subject's possession was in Washington with Chief Investigator for the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security and Los Angeles set out a lead requesting Chief Investigator be contacted to verify the manuscript contained no information of a security or intelligence nature. It is not believed this should be done by the Bureau and Supervisor [redacted] was so instructed by telephone call on 3/16/73. b6 b7C

MAILED 24
APR 2 - 1973
FBI

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
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Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Ms. Herwig
Mr. Mintz
Mrs. Neenan

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JPL

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 3/12/73

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (REGISTERED)
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

RE: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS-R
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles teletype to Bureau dated 2/23/73; and Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 1/24/73 (copy to WFO).

Enclosed for information of Bureau is a copy of an article appearing in the Sun Telegram Newspaper, San Bernardino, California, setting out results of the coroner's inquest at San Bernardino on 3/1/73, in which the jury ruled that subject accidentally shot himself. The nature of the "New Evidence" referred to by Congressman EARL LANDGREBE is also explained.

On 3/7/73, Coroner [redacted] San Bernardino County, advised that the manuscripts in subject's possession at the time of his death are still in Washington, D.C. in the care of Chief Investigator [redacted] of Senator STROM THURMOND's Subcommittee on Internal Security. He stated [redacted] can be reached at the New Senate Office Building, telephone number 225-8247. [redacted] stated [redacted] told him that the manuscripts of the subject dealt with a story he was writing contained no information of an internal security nature. [redacted] stated the manuscripts are supposed to be returned to him sometime in the future. He stated the nature of the manuscripts could be verified through [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 1)(RM)
2 - Washington Field Office)(RM)
2 - Los Angeles

REC-32 44-1 16 MAR 15 1973

ENCLOSURE

PWJ/amc
(6)

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-81 BY 3946 36 lw/bcg

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

[redacted] b7E

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.: It is requested that Chief Investigator [redacted] above, be contacted in order to verify that subject's manuscripts contained no information of a security or intelligence nature. b6 b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 34063 dlw/BCAP/DK
envelope only

(1) enclosures to Bureau
to go with Los Angeles ~~report, letter~~ airtel
dated 5/2/73, described as:
newspaper clipping

Registered
Mail

Re: [redacted]
Los Angeles file number [redacted]
Bureau file number

b6
b7C
b7E

Sergei Nikolay Kourdakov
ss-R
00: LA

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

b7E

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Soviet Defector's Death Ruled Accidental

By DENNIS POLLOCK
Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — A coroner's jury, after two hours of deliberation, yesterday ruled Soviet defector Sergei Kourdakov accidentally shot himself to death New Year's Eve in a Running Springs motel cabin.

An Indiana Congressman had provided the inquest with allegations Kourdakov may have been assassinated, and those allegations were rebutted yesterday.

Information concerning an alleged statement by the Rev. Kenneth Baughman, of Auburn, Ind., was contained in affidavits which Rep. Earl F. Landgrebe, R-Ind., sent to County Coroner Bill Hill.

Last week Hill postponed the inquest until yesterday after receiving a phone call from Landgrebe. At that time the congressman referred to new information in the case.

The affidavits are from two women who attended a church meeting sponsored by Underground Evangelism of Glendale, the organization for which Kourdakov lectured.

The women said the Rev. Baughman,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1, Section B
Sun Telegram
San Bernadino, Calif.

Date: Friday, 3/2/73
Edition:
Author: Dennis Pollock
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

b7E

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 390638 ds/BCE/sk

a film representative for Underground Evangelism, told a Remington, Ind., audience on Jan. 17 that Kourdakov was killed and implied he was assassinated.

A Cerritos girl who was alone with Kourdakov when he died from a gunshot wound to the head testified last week she thought the shooting was an accident.

Sheriff's Det. Jim Cox testified yesterday that he called the Rev. Baughman on Monday and asked him about statements the pastor made at the Remington Bible Baptist Church.

The Rev. Baughman denied that he had implied the death was an assassination, although he may have said Kourdakov was killed. He said he based that information on a newsletter sent out by Underground Evangelism headquarters.

Last week L. Joe Bass, director of Underground Evangelism, told newsmen Rep. Landgrebe's information did not come from the Glendale organization.

The last person called to testify at the inquest was Bass. He was sternly questioned by Coroner Hill concerning alleged inferences by Bass that the death investigation was not thorough.

In a newsletter issued by Bass following the death, the Underground Evangelism director stated: "It's (San Bernardino County) a rural county, mainly desert and mountains with a small population and relatively small law enforcement staff."

After quoting from that statement, Hill asked him if he still believed that.

Bass said that "as counties go, it's a rural county," but you have a very good investigatory service."

Hill told Bass the county covers 20,000

(Continued From Metro Page)

square miles, has a population of over 720,000 and a sheriff's office staff of 700.

"The reason I asked that," Hill told the inquest, "as you know I was subpeonaed to Washington and the first few hours I was there I was treated as though I might have come from that hick county that you described to them, but after I explained to them they did put me up in finer quarters and treated me accordingly."

Testimony by Bass came after Det. Cox told jurors he spent about 200 hours on the investigation and other sheriff's personnel spent a total of another 200 hours.

Hill asked Cox to what he would ascribe the death.

Cox asked in return, "Are you seeking a opinion, sir?"

Hill said he was and Cox replied, "My personal opinion is that the death resulted from an accidental discharge (of a revolver)."

Earlier yesterday an agent with the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms testified he did not feel a Russian youth would be familiar with the type of borrowed revolver Kourdakov had with him in the cabin.

His testimony, Cox's and that of a criminalist indicated Kourdakov did not know which way the cylinder turned on the .38 caliber, five-shot Smith and Wesson revolver.

A bullet from this gun killed the defector.

The jury last week heard testimony from the girl who was with Kourdakov on the fatal night. She said he had removed one bullet from the weapon and had told her that was a safety measure to keep it from firing accidentally.

The girl, Ann Johnson, 17, of Cerritos, has stated he was joking with her and picked up the gun. When she glanced at a television set, a shot rang out and he slumped to the floor mortally wounded, she testified.

There had been some speculation Miss Johnson may have given a different account of the death in tape recorded interviews with Bass. The coroner yesterday said there was nothing on those tape recordings, to which he and a sheriff's detective listened, that conflicted with her public testimony.

"She is telling the truth," Hill told the inquest, "and she told it over and over and over on those tapes."

Hill said there was nothing on the tapes "outside of a lot of interrogation of a 17-year-old girl."

In an apparent response to rumors Kourdakov was working on official government forms while staying at the motel, Det. Cox testified Kourdakov was instead working on a book while at the motel.

FD-44

SAC, Seattle [redacted] April 6, 1973 b7E

Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

REC 21

SERGEI KUNDANOV
IS - R ST-103

Attached is the translation which you requested by letter dated 3/19/73.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is returned herewith.

Enc. (8)

1 - San Francisco - enc.
1 - Sacramento - enc.
1 - Los Angeles [redacted] - enc. b7E
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller (Attn: CI-1), sent direct with enclosure

TN:spl
(7)

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-81 BY 34063 Elw/BCE/SK

MAILED 21
APR - 6 1973
FBI

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Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Thompson
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Mrs. Neenan

57 APR 18 1973

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-17-2014 BY ADG/ 76J65T61

SUMMARY FROM RUSSIAN

Six clippings from Russian-language newspapers.

* * *

(1) Article, "Who Is the Killer?" from the newspaper "Our Days", dated Wednesday, January 17, 1973:

The article cites report from the Los Angeles "Times" of January 11, 1973, regarding the death of Sergey Kurdakov, Soviet defector, who "turned to God."

The article quotes Kurdakov as stating that if anyone ever hears that he had died in an accident or committed suicide, they should not believe this, implying that he may become a victim of "secret Soviet organs."

* * *

(1) Article, "The Kremlin Mafia Strides Through the World. In memory of Sergey Kurdakov, Victim of Soviet Terror," by [redacted] from the newspaper "Russian Life," dated February 3, 1973. b6 b7C

This is a diatribe against crimes committed by the Soviets abroad, such as political assassinations, kidnapping, espionage, blackmail, etc., all of which "have roots in the foreign sections of the Kremlin Mafia in the free world."

The writer thinks that the so-called "suicide" of Sergey Kurdakov was one of such political murders.

An announcement surrounded by a black border, states that a requiem service was held at the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Seattle, for a repose of the soul of Sergey Kurdakov (sponsored by the "Freedom's Lighthouse Fund").

* * *

SUMMARIZED BY: [redacted] jah

April 2, 1973

[redacted] b6 b7C b7E

ENCLOSURE

(3) Article, "What the People Who Knew Sergey Kurdakov, Think of His Death," by [redacted] from the newspaper "Russian Life" (no date of the issue is given). b6 b7C

The writer briefly outlines the story of the supposed suicide of Sergey Kurdakov, expressing regret that the case was so lightly dismissed by the press and authorities.

The writer says that the people, who knew Kurdakov would like to know, who was the woman who called the Sheriff regarding the suicide. The newspaper, "Russian Life" was one of the first to warmly support S. Kurdakov, following his escape from a Soviet ship and corresponded with him; it promised to help him arrange an anticommunist talk in San Francisco in the near future.

The people, who knew him, feel that he would never end his life by suicide, being a man of strong will and persistent character, who made firm decisions and adhered to them. He was happy, because he was free and had found a new purpose in life.

The writer concludes by saying that there is a strong belief on the part of those who knew him, that this was murder and they wish that the proper authorities would treat the case differently. "There were too many similar cases before, both in West Germany and in the U. S. We should take steps in this direction and we are doing it," says the writer.

* * *

(4) Article captioned "The End of the Road," from the newspaper "Our Days," dated January 10, 1973.

The article essentially reports the known details of Sergey Kurdakov's accidental death, and mentions the fact, that while Kurdakov was recently in Toronto, two unidentified individuals nearly succeeded in pushing him under the wheels of an oncoming car and that he had been receiving many threatening anonymous letters lately.

(5) and (6) Two installments of an article, "One of Many," from January 24 and 31, 1973, issues of the newspaper "Our Days," in which Sergey Kurdakov tells about his early life and antireligious activities, while a member of the Young Communist League in the USSR, his gradual conversion and escape from a Soviet ship.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-17-2014 by: J75J65T61

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E
Attn: FBI Annex - Translation Material

DATE: 3/19/73

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE [redacted]

SUBJECT: SERGEI KURDAKOV
IS - R

~~SECRET~~

~~CLASSIFIED BY 39063 Eleff/BCE/JDK~~
~~DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1, 2~~

(U) On January 26, 1973, February 6 and 7, 1973, and February 23, 1973, [redacted] advised that approximately January 3, 1973, he read in the Seattle newspapers that one SERGEI KURDAKOV, a Soviet defector who deserted his ship in Canada was found shot and dead in a California ski area. (S) b7D

Subsequent to this time, the informant observed articles concerning KURDAKOV in various Russian and Ukrainian language newspapers.

According to these articles, KURDAKOV in his younger days was a Kommsomol (Communist youth) leader in Kamchatka. Later he was converted to Christianity and subsequently defected from a Soviet ship in Canada in 1971.

After his defection he went to Toronto, Canada, where two men attempted to abduct him from a trolley car and place him into an automobile; however, KURDAKOV escaped. During the above time, he was receiving threatening letters for having spoken against Soviet repression of religion in the Evangelical Russian Church.

Informant advised that the data in the above Russian language newspapers raised the question as to whether KURDAKOV shot himself or whether he had been shot by someone under the direction of the Soviets.

3 - Bureau (Enc 6) (RM) REC 27
2 - San Francisco (RM)
1 - Sacramento (RM)
2 - Los Angeles (RM)
2 - Seattle
RHC/rlg
(10)

[redacted] b7E

16 MAR 26 1973

T-95926
TN: pwa
3/26/73

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

[redacted] b7E

Attached herewith for the Bureau are the following: ~~SECRET~~

1. Article captioned "Who Killed" from the Russian newspaper "Our Days", dated Wednesday, January 17, 1973.

2. An article concerning KURDAKOV from the newspaper "Russian Life" published in San Francisco, California.

3. Article from the same newspaper published in San Francisco.

4. Article captioned "And Live" published in "Our Days" Russian newspaper dated Wednesday, January 10, 1973.

5. Article in newspaper "Our Days" issue dated January 24, 1973.

6. Article in issue of "Our Days" dated January 31, 1973.

(U) During a visit with [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

[redacted] informant mentioned to [redacted] that he had read about KURDAKOV in a Russian Language newspaper and the latter stated he was extremely interested in obtaining any information informant could obtain concerning SERGEI KURDAKOV.

(U) Data concerning the above is set forth in Seattle LHM dated March 9, 1973, captioned [redacted] b7D b7E

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

Bureau is requested to have the above mentioned material reviewed to ascertain whether it contains pertinent data of intelligence interest in connection with the captioned individual and furnish results to the receiving offices.

~~SECRET~~

SAC, Seattle [redacted] June 1, 1973 b7E

REC-97

Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Attached is the final portion of the translation which you requested by letter dated 4/16/73.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is returned herewith. Material in English is retained in Bufile.

Enc. (4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/16/01 BY 39063 Elw/BEC b7E

1 - Los Angeles [redacted] - enc.
1 - San Francisco - enc.
1 - Sacramento - enc.
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller (Attn: CI-1), sent direct with enclosure

TN:spl
(7)

MAILED 4
MAY 3 1 1973
FBI

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
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DATE 10-17-2014 BY ADG/J75J65T61

SUMMARY FROM RUSSIAN

Article "Investigation of Sergey Kurdakov's Case Discontinued," from "Novoye Russkoye Slovo," dated March 11, 1973.

The article sets forth certain details connected with the death of Sergey Kurdakov, which led to the conclusion that the death was indeed accidental and not an assassination by the KGB agents made to look like suicide.

SUMMARIZED BY: [redacted] kdt

May 31, 1973

b6
b7C

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-17-2014 by: J75J65T61

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] b7E

DATE: 4/16/73

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE [redacted] (P)

SECRET

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV
IS - R
00: Los Angeles

CLASSIFIED BY 3706 [illegible]
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau, dated 3/9/73, and Seattle letter dated 3/19/73.

(U) On April 5, 1973, [redacted] made available a number of items which he obtained through Church Circles in Seattle, and published by the Underground Evangelism Organization, P.O. Box 808, Los Angeles, California, and Box 1296, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. These are being furnished Los Angeles and the Bureau for information, since they pertain to the captioned individual. b7D

1. Underground Evangelism magazine, dated April, 1973, in English language.

2. Single page from the above magazine captioned "A Russian 'Jesus Baby' Pays a Price" in English.

3. Single page from the above magazine, captioned "Pastor Imprisoned" in English.

4. Page 14 from above magazine, containing article captioned "USSR Steps Up War on Church To Keep Youth In Line" in English.

5. Single page captioned "The Chinese Are Coming".

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

2 - Bureau (Encl. 8)
1 - Los Angeles [redacted] (Encl. 8) (RM) (Info)
1 - San Francisco (RM)(Info)
1 - Sacramento (RM) (Info)
3 - Seattle
RHC/rlg
(8)

b7E

[redacted]

22 APR 19 1973

FIVE

SECRET

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5010-109

b7E

SECRET

6. Single page captioned "Two Young Russians Who Loved God" both above in English.

7. Article in the publication "Persecuted Church" published by the Voice of Salvation, P.O. Box 636, Montebello, California, number one, in Russian Language.

8. Article in Russian from the "Russian Daily" "novoye Russkoye Slovo" in Russian.

It is being left to the diseretion of the Bureau whether it desires to have the Russian language literature translated.

Results of Interview with WILLIAM G. DORSING, Acme, Washington, will be submitted in the near future.

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 39063 cdw/kcp

envelope only

Enclosures (6) to Bufile

Re: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Bufile: [redacted] b7E

[redacted] b7E

ENCLOSURE

MINISTRY TO THE SUFFERING CHURCH IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD APRIL 1973

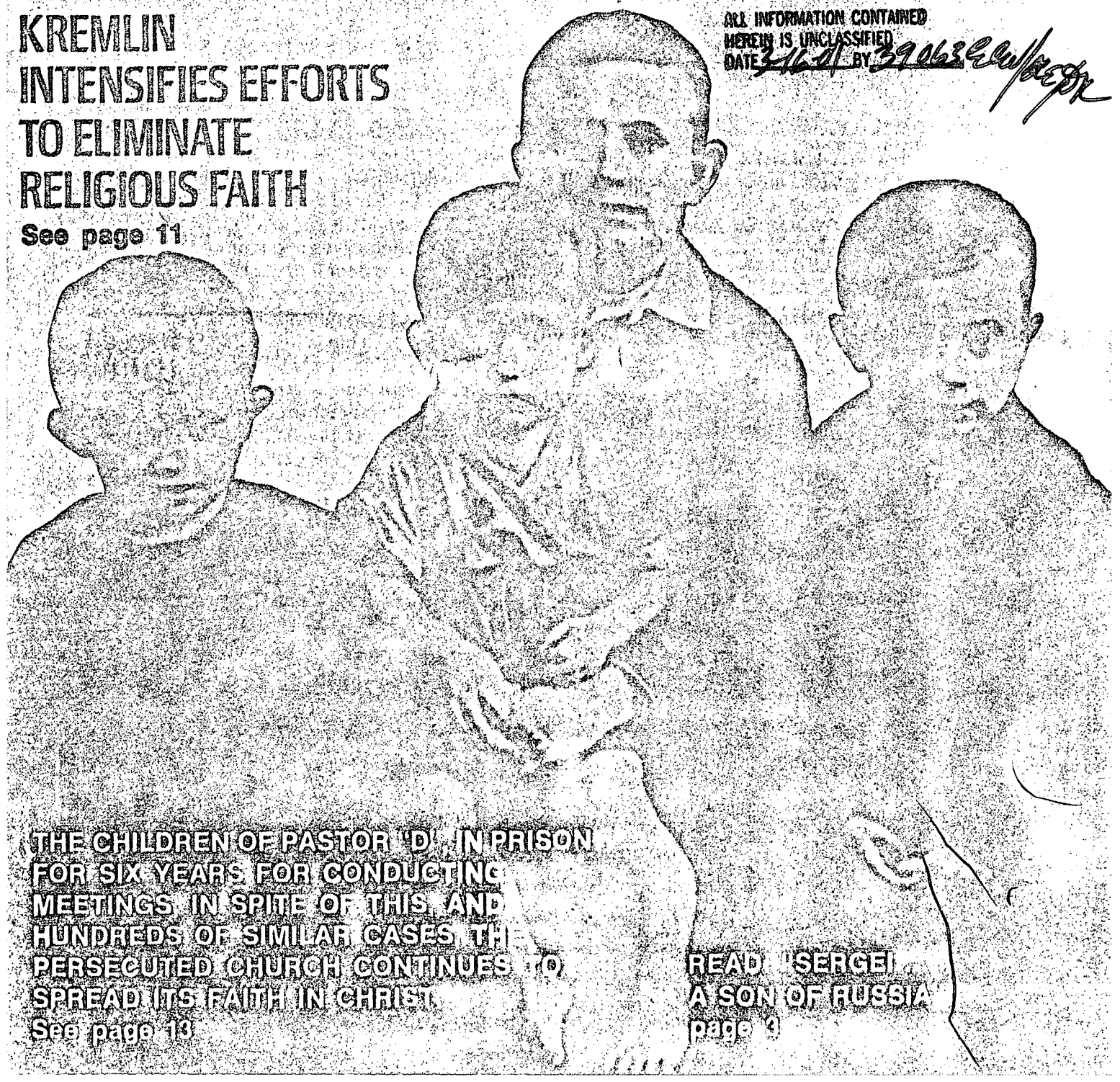
UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM

MAGAZINE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-07 BY 39062 Ed/Keogh

KREMLIN INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RELIGIOUS FAITH

See page 11



THE CHILDREN OF PASTOR 'D', IN PRISON FOR SIX YEARS FOR CONDUCTING MEETINGS. IN SPITE OF THIS AND HUNDREDS OF SIMILAR CASES, THE PERSECUTED CHURCH CONTINUES TO SPREAD ITS FAITH IN CHRIST.

See page 13

READ 'SERGEI', A SON OF RUSSIA

page 4

UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM MAGAZINE

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 4 APRIL 1973

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Switzerland: Christian East Mission, Bern

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Australia: Underground Evangelism PMB, P.O. Box 444 Bankstown, NSW 2200

New Zealand: Underground Evangelism P.O. Box 6825, Auckland

Argentina: Underground Evangelism Alsina 119 San Isidro, Buenos Aires

South Africa: Underground Evangelism P.O. Box 49, Claremont, Cape

Mission Al Sur Apartado Postal 977 Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico

Holland: Postbus 101 Barneveld-Holland

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AFFILIATE MEMBER: Evangelical Press Association

OUR SUPREME PURPOSE / *Christ's command,* "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God; the only infallible rule of faith and practice. We believe in the eternal Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His virgin birth; in His substitutionary death on Calvary for our sins; His bodily resurrection from the grave. We believe in salvation by faith through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We believe that all men are lost apart from the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We believe that the true Church is composed of all those who have been born again. We believe in the present working and moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men and women. We believe in carrying out the Great Commission; to evangelize is a vital part of our Christian responsibility. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, to this earth.

SPREADING THE GOSPEL in Russia, Red Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Albania, Cuba, China, (Radio) North Korea, Mongolia.

HOW WE WORK: Although we use every avenue of religious freedom open, WE DO NOT STOP THERE. We do not limit the Gospel outreach to the boundaries imposed by atheistic communism. Our precept is the principle laid down by the apostles in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

HOW WE ARE SUPPORTED: Underground Evangelism is an interdenominational ministry supported by individuals, churches, and missionary groups from many denominations actively interested in the spread of God's Word in communist lands.

OUR FINANCIAL POLICY: All gifts are used 100% as designated by the donor. Thus, gifts for Bibles, Literature, the Martyrs Relief Fund and other such ministries go in full, without deduction, for those ministries.

TO OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS: Underground Evangelism of Canada (legal name: Christian Evangelism Center) is a government-recognized, non-profit Canadian missionary organization. Gifts sent to the Canadian office, P.O. Box 1296, Calgary 2, Alberta, are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged with an official receipt.

A PERSONAL WORD

from L. Joe Bass, President/Founder Underground Evangelism International

Strong testimonials to the caliber of Sergei's Christian commitment continue to come into the UE offices from across the U.S., from Christian leaders who knew him. God used this unique young man to touch many thousands in a most unusual way. Testimony of changed lives and renewed dedication to Christ continue to pour into the UE office. In this issue you will read some of these testimonies of what God accomplished through this life. Even in his death the impact of Sergei's life is felt.

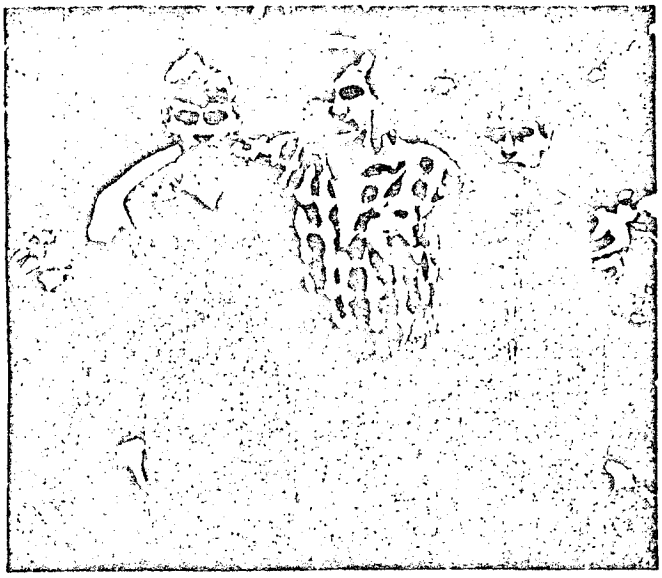
One of the purposes of this issue of the magazine is to present a more complete picture of this young man whom God permitted to come into our lives and bless us all. Yet, Sergei, himself, would be the first to state that he was just a part of the larger work of God for the people living in Communist countries. As always, with the work of God, one person may pass from the scene, but the work of God continues. So it is with the work and ministry shared by Sergei and all who participate in one way or another in this endeavor. We move onward.

Sergei's love for the people of Russia and his eagerness to bring Christ's message to them, his honesty about his own part in the persecution of Russian Christians, his courage in proclaiming his conversion from Communism to Christ in the face of threats — these qualities have endeared him to thousands of people and confronted them with the claims of Jesus Christ.

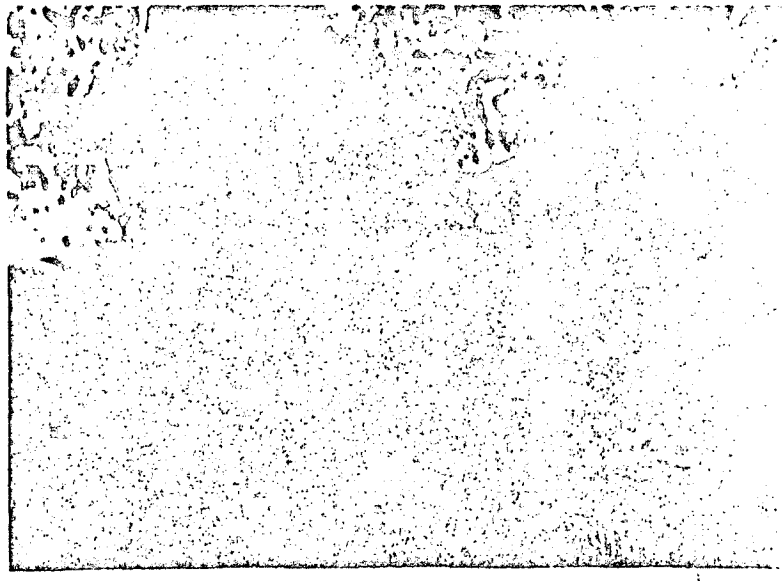
It is with a sense of obligation to the work and dedication of Sergei Kourdakov that we present in this issue a few more details in the life of this child of God "called to the Kingdom" for this brief time of ministry to us all.

The message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ proclaimed by Sergei Kourdakov is timeless and will continue.

EARLY YEARS IN CHILDREN'S HOMES



1. Without father or mother, children were shown no love by Communist "aunts" and "uncles" who ran children's homes. Only "family" Sergei (center) knew during his growing up years was his fellow orphans.



2. Children in homes developed own "caste" system. Sergei fought way up, to become "king" of Barysevo Children's Home. Loss of tooth, knocked out in fight for leadership, was small price to pay for victory.

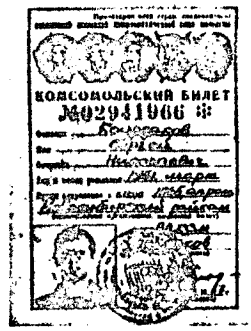
SERGEI . . . SON OF RUSSIA

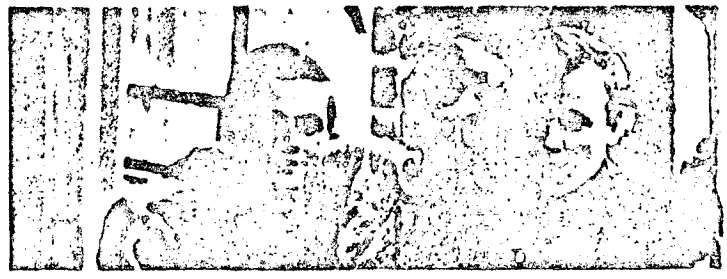
DEDICATED COMMUNIST

From six years to sixteen-and-a-half, Sergei, orphaned at four, lived in State-operated children's homes. The brutal treatment of the children and their hard life in these homes is detailed in Sergei's forthcoming full-length book.

3. Sergei (second from right) meets outside Barysevo Children's Home with soldier friends from nearby army base. Note background. Here children, who sided with management and spied against fellow orphans, were punished by Sergei, "King of Barysevo" and "lieutenants." Shut up in footlockers, "spies" suffered painfully, as they were rolled down precipice. Few ever continued spying activities.

4. From earliest years, in school and children's homes, Sergei was indoctrinated in Communism and taught against God and Believers. His Communist Youth League membership papers are shown.





5. Supported by friends, Sergei returns from hospital, where he almost died from stab in back. Wound was received when he was "jumped" by members of rival gang while he served as underworld narcotics courier.

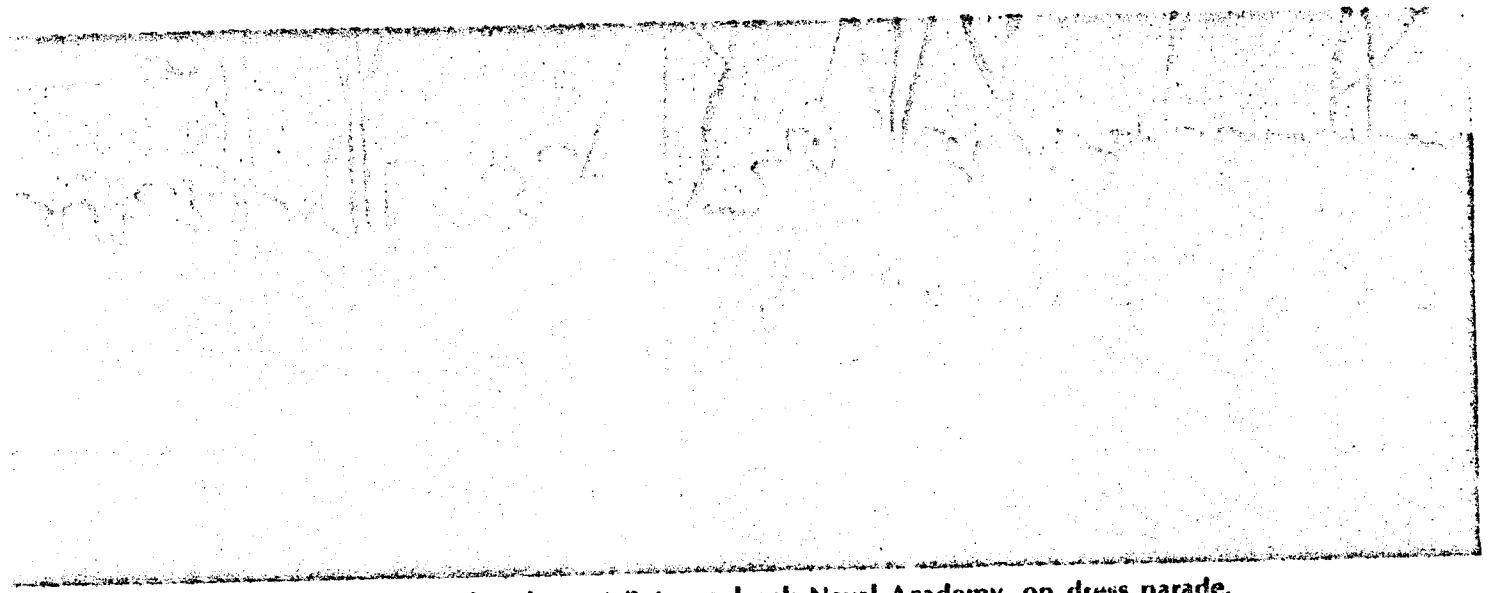
SECRET
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

NAVY YEARS

Sergei began his naval training at seventeen, spending his first year at Alexander Popov Naval Academy in Leningrad (August, 1967 to July, 1968).

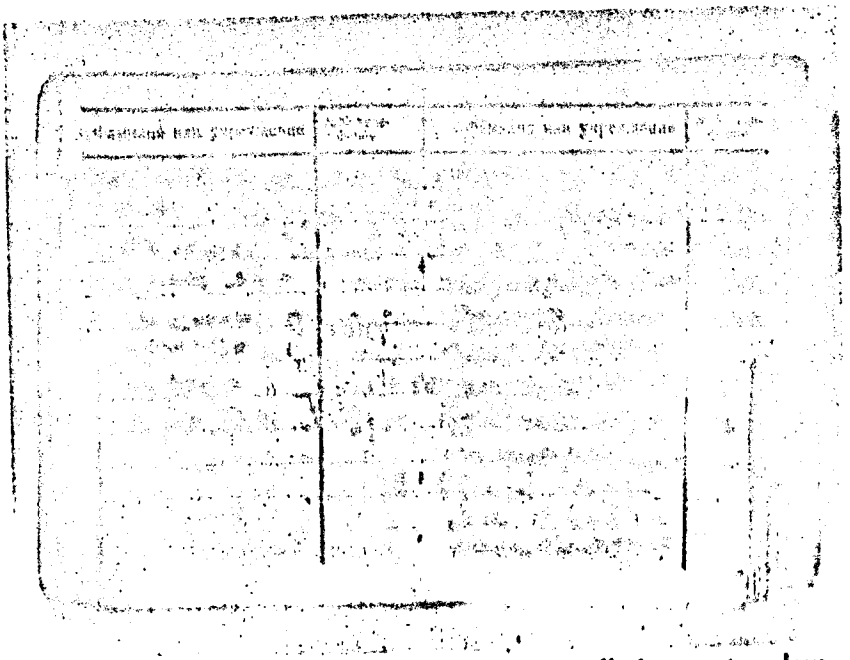
While enroute to his new base in Kamchatka Province, Siberia, he spent three weeks at Blagoveshchensk on the Amur River during border fights between Russia and China. Arriving at the Naval Academy in Petropavlovsk in late September, 1968, he was based there until January, 1971.

From January, 1971, until September, 1971, he was at sea on three occasions, the last of which brought him to his escape point off the coast of North America.



1. Sergei and his fellow naval cadets, at Petropavlovsk Naval Academy, on dress parade.

3. Sergei in Siberia, near Petropavlovsk Naval Base, looks out on Russian boat.

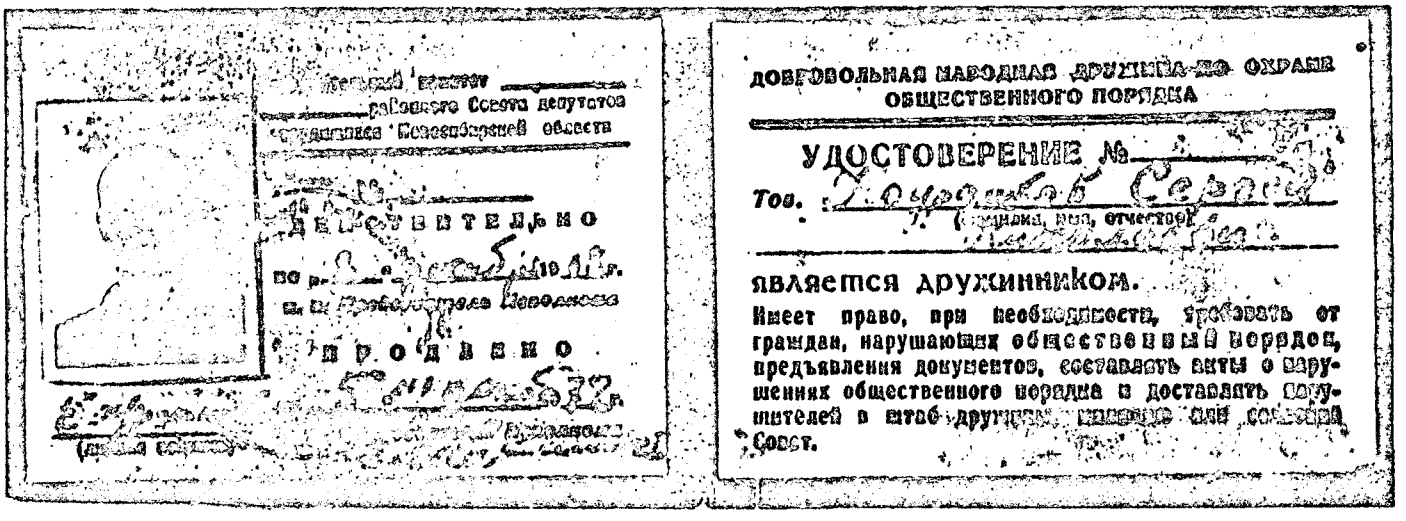


4. Sergei's address book, preserved but suffering water damage during escape swim.

DESTROYER OF CHURCHES

DEDICATED COMMUNIST

1. Sergei was Communist Youth Leader over these and 1200 other cadets at Petropavlovsk Naval Academy. From among these Sergei chose 20 top men for a special police attack squad and led them in brutal action against underground churches.



ДОБРОВОЛЬНАЯ НАРОДНАЯ ДРУЖИНА ПО ОХРАНЕ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОГО ПОРЯДКА

УДОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ №

Тов.

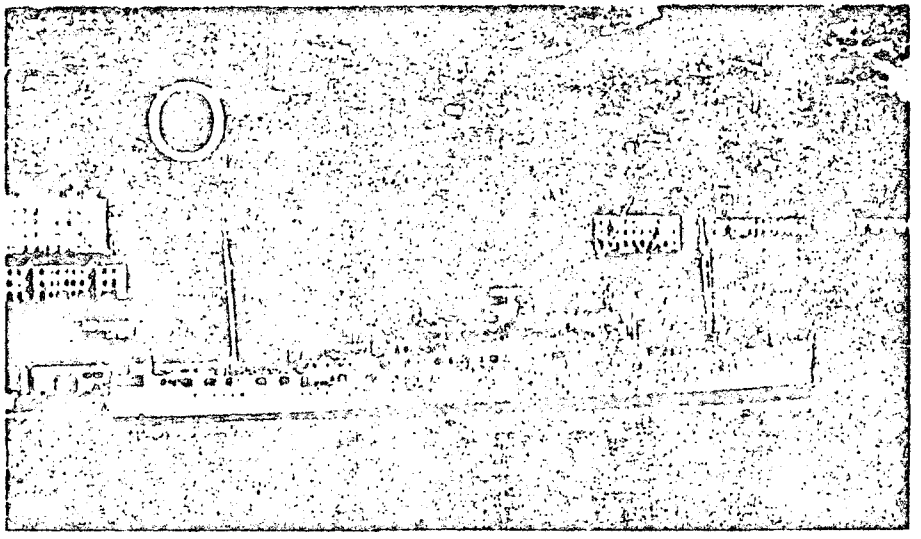
является дружинником.

Имеет право, при необходимости, требовать от граждан, нарушающих общественный порядок, предъявления документов, составлять акты о нарушениях общественного порядка и доставлять нарушителей в штаб дружины, милицию или совет.

Совет.

2. Sergei Kourdakov's police license, identifying him as a member of the Special Police Action Squad.

3. Sergei's close friend, Alexander Gulyaev, also a member of Anti-Christian Attack Squad.



4. A view of Petropavlovsk, showing house (circled) where one of 150 raids, led by Sergei against Believers, took place.

A YOUNG RUSSIAN

by L. Joe Bass
President/Founder,
Underground Evangelism

Hundreds of expressions of sympathy have poured in to the *UE* office since the homegoing of our co-worker and brother in Christ, Sergei Kourdakov. Some were heart-felt letters; others, deeply expressive poems; one, a beautiful pencil sketch of Sergei.

All the communications had these things in common: they indicated a deep and genuine love for Sergei; a warm, heart-felt kinship with him expressed in statements like these: "We felt he was part of our family." "He was just like our son." "He seemed like my very own brother."

The letters came from people of all ages, a great volume of them from young people, in which they told of renewed dedication to Jesus Christ because of Sergei's Christian influence upon them.

One Sunday school teacher based her lesson on Sergei's life and testimony. She wrote to tell how three of her Junior High girls, on hearing it, accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.

These excerpts, taken from letters we've received, reveal the impact of Sergei's life and testimony:

"Sergei was born the same year I was, but he has accomplished more for Jesus than I, so far. This is a letter of dedication to God and His plan."

"I think that if all Christians would be half as enthusiastic as he was in his work this would be a great deal nicer world to live in."

"His testimony inspires a person to start living more for 'God, Jesus Christ,' to realize how lucky we are to be living in America, and to try and do more for fellow Christians living in Communist countries."

"I have a son the same age as Sergei and I hope and pray that one of these days he will learn to love the Lord as much as Sergei did."

Pastors, like Dr. Charles Blair and Dr. Richard Halverson, who were very close to him during his last days, were deeply impressed with Sergei's eagerness for the Word and his desire to tell others of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tom Wallace, of Beth Haven Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, expressed it like this:

"I was greatly impressed with the spiritual discernment and insight this young Christian had. He seemed to grasp these deep truths of the great conflict between the two messages of Christ versus Communism. His zeal and enthusiasm were very impressive to us all. I sensed a very sincere burden to help his own people, the Russians, to find what he had found and to give comfort and encouragement to those who already knew Christ, but were enduring persecution and suffering for their faith."

It has been a rich and heart-warming experience for those of us who see the mail here at *UE*, to learn how greatly Sergei was loved by Christians everywhere. More than two months after his death, letters continue to come in large numbers.

We who also loved him "as a brother," have marveled again and again at the miracles God wrought in order to bring Sergei to the free world, and the impact of his life and witness.

It has given us cause to reminisce and to review the unique circumstances surrounding his coming to freedom's shores and his brief but lasting ministry among us.

We look back to the night of September 3, 1971, when this young Communist forever turned away from the only life he had known from early childhood and to which he had been wholly committed throughout most of his twenty-one brief years.

Survival, Act of God's Love

His successful swim to freedom was fraught with dangers so grave, and obstacles so difficult to overcome, that Canadian newspapers at the time described his swim and survival as "amazing" and "astonishing." But God once again had proven that, with Him, "all things are possible."

As we reviewed Sergei's entry into the free world we remembered the Canadian newspaper accounts that told how severely he had been injured by his fearful ordeal; how he had been found, suffering from loss of blood and exposure; and how he had spent fourteen hours unconscious in a Canadian hospital. In itself, survival, despite his injured condition, was as great an act of God's love as his safe escape in the stormy waters.

Often, we are reminded how thoroughly and exhaustively his story was checked for two months by Canadian authorities, while Sergei waited in jail for a verdict as to whether he would be sent back to Russia or accepted as a bonafide defector and allowed to remain in Canada.

After exhaustive investigation, Canadian intelligence found his story to be true and granted him asylum and released him from jail.

Sergei had found a new life of freedom, but not yet all that his heart really longed for. After an earnest search for true satisfaction, he found Jesus Christ as his Savior and became one in spirit with the Believers he had once brutally persecuted in Communist Russia.

Though he could easily have made a comfortable life for himself by taking offered positions in his field of training as a radio specialist, he felt there was more to the Christian life than he was then

enjoying. Not until he surrendered fully to Jesus Christ and made himself available for Christian service did he experience full peace and joy.

His Decision to Join *UE*

In December 1971, he began to share his testimony and tell what Christ had done for him. After his decision to tell his story, he was given a Russian Bible, in Canada, that had been printed by *Underground Evangelism*. Amazed to discover that it was identical with a Bible he had seen in Russia, he phoned *UE*, and on May 1, 1972, he joined *UE* in its ministry to the Russian people whom he loved.

A few months later he came to the United States. As he gained greater facility with the English language, he was able to add details to the story of his life in Russia that he had sketchily outlined in Canada, when his ability to communicate was very limited.

Sergei's file of the Canadian investigation was sent by Canadian authorities to the United States. The entire U.S. intelligence community — consisting of several agencies—verified his story. After this, Congressmen and Senators were briefed by U.S. authorities on Sergei Kourdakov's life. Based on these investigations and briefings, Sergei's integrity was thoroughly established and a special bill to grant him permanent residence in the United States was introduced to Congress.

When Sergei died, he had the support of Senators and Congressmen and other officials on a special Act of Congress.

As recently as February 20th, questions raised concerning Sergei's story by some who would discredit him for their own purposes, were investigated in Washington. Those who have access to the government files reviewed them and *once again* Sergei's story was verified.

UE organized Sergei's program in the U.S. to put special emphasis on his spiritual development and education, which took 85% of his time, while only 15% was spent in public meetings. His last public meeting was November 13th, after which he went on to study in Washington.

RESULT OF THE HEARING INTO THE DEATH OF SERGEI KOURDAKOV, WHICH WE REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT:

On Thursday, March 1, 1973, a County Coroner's Inquest ruled that Sergei Kourdakov died January 1, 1973, at Running Springs, California. His death was ruled an accident.

Debtor to His People

He grew spiritually and witnessed genuinely. Though cautioned often by friends that his life could be in danger, he would dismiss their concern with the words, "I owe it." Even threats to his life that he mentioned publicly could not dissuade him from continuing to speak out for his Lord.

Undoubtedly Sergei could have made a success in many secular fields, had he chosen to do so. Throughout his life he had been exceptionally competent in anything he tackled, determined to do his very best. Whether it was sports, the military, striving to become the No. 1 Communist youth of his province, or leader over 1200 Communist youth, he always persevered until he reached his goals. I have often thought that, when Sergei turned his life over to Jesus Christ, the world lost, potentially, a great athlete (a star football player perhaps), a gifted politician, a military attache. But Sergei felt himself a debtor to those whom he had once persecuted, to his people of Russia, and to the Lord Jesus Christ who saved him. ("God saved my life in the ocean for a purpose," he said often.)

With all his lofty ambitions and burning desire to achieve, he was at the same time a practical, down-to-earth individual, laughing at his own shortcomings and language problems and saying, "I'll do even better."

Sergei could have had a quiet, cloistered life, had he chosen to accept it. It had been offered to him, and many Christian leaders and friends, who feared for his safety, counseled him to avoid the risks of a public ministry. He, himself, spoke occasionally of the dangers, but felt he had a debt to repay to the Russian Believers. *UE* made a standing offer to him to provide him with a full scholarship to any university or college of his choice, and one university scholarship had actually been arranged for him. It was good any time he chose. But he turned each offer down, saying he would consider it later, but first he was constrained to devote his life to telling what Jesus Christ meant to him and had done for him. Again, he repeated, "I owe it," stating

(Continued on Page 8)

THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SKETCH OF SERGEI'S TRAVELS FROM MID-NOVEMBER ONWARD:

November 13 — conducted his last public meeting, in Kansas City, Missouri.

November 14 to December 18 — a guest at Fellowship House, International Christian Leadership, Washington, D.C., for Bible study, Christian fellowship and spiritual growth activities.

December 18 to December 26 — to Denver, Colorado, as a house guest of Pastor and Mrs. Charles Blair, of Calvary Temple.

December 26 — to Los Angeles, where he took up residence in a Christian home until December 30th.

December 30 and 31st — to a mountain resort area to work on a book and other materials.

January 1, 1973 — died of a gunshot wound, which has been ruled an accident.

DEVOTED CHRISTIAN

IMPACT OF HIS TESTIMONY UPON OTHERS

January 25, 1973

Mr. L. Joe Bass, President
Underground Evangelism International
Post Office Box 808
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Bass:

One of the very remarkable experiences of my life was the very brief but profound association with Sergei Kourdakov while he was here in Washington, D.C. as a guest of ours in Fellowship House and sat under my teaching a number of Sundays.

Sergei had a rare and infectious faith that touched everybody around him. He was warm, loving and very gentle. He was anxious to learn and unusually responsive to teaching.

Even though we took very seriously our two-hour classes on Sunday afternoon, Sergei's presence was a delight and beautiful experience for all of us.

He was very anxious to witness for Jesus Christ whenever and wherever possible and, I felt, had tremendous courage. I'm sure, though he never stated it explicitly, that he was under a great burden to compensate for the Christians whom he had humiliated, hurt or even destroyed in his past experience.

He loved you and your work very much and was proud and grateful for his relationship with you.

Thank you, dear friend, for letting us have a share in this remarkable brother's life and witness.

Sincerely in Christ,
Richard C. Halverson, Pastor,
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Washington, D.C.

February 1, 1973

Mr. Joe Bass
1222 South Glendale Avenue
Glendale, California 91205

Dear Brother Bass:

Just a note to say thank you for keeping us so thoroughly informed about all the events surrounding the death of our good friend, Sergei.

While here in Santa Rosa you will recall, he ministered to an overflow crowd in our sanctuary, and then the following morning he ministered for several hours to the students of our Genesis training center. That night he stayed in my home, and immediately earned the admiration of my three boys. He was so open, friendly, and warm to visit with. At the end of the brief snack time before retiring, it was Sergei who suggested that we pray together and thank God for the wonderful day, and ask Him for a good night's rest.

The next morning, he was up early, and though there was frost on the ground, like a polar bear he dove into the ice cold pool, and dove and swam for quite some time, to the admiration of us soft Americans.

Needless to say, the spirituality, sincerity, warmth, and vitality of Sergei's life came through loud and clear. Our entire congregation indeed mourns his death. He is indeed a great loss to the work of the Lord.

We pray God will give you strength in these trying times, and that He will give you wisdom and guidance.

God bless you.

Sergei's friend and yours,

A. Watson Argue, Jr.
Pastor, Christian Life Center
Santa Rosa, California

(Continued from Page 7)

that God had saved his life for a purpose and that purpose must come first.

Fellowship with Others

Last November 14 to December 18, Sergei was a guest of the International Christian Fellowship in Washington, D.C. There he participated in Bible study under the leadership of Dr. Richard Halverson, Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Washington. He grew spiritually, and enjoyed Christian fellowship with others his own age.

Dr. Halverson, a minister of national reputation, said: "This man, whom I knew so briefly, I had the great privilege — I don't think I realized it then, as I do now — of being his teacher for just four Sundays. Thank you for sharing him with us."

Another said, "He was especially thankful for the facilities and opportunities presented him by *Underground Evangelism* to help the Russian people receive the gospel of Jesus."

"Best Verse in the Bible"

After his homegoing, in one of his many Bibles, it was found that Sergei had written alongside II Corinthians 5:17, "Best Verse in Bible" — "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

What a comfort and blessing the message of this verse must have been to Sergei Kourdakov, who, like the one who wrote it, had been a persecutor of the Believers. And what a clear-ringing testimony to the world of his implicit trust in the One who had saved his soul and made for him forever "all things new!"

SERGEI

by Betty Blair
New Year's Day, '73

Dr. Charles Blair, Pastor of Calvary Temple, Denver, Colorado, and Mrs. Blair were especially close to Sergei. During the last week of his life they entertained him in their home, and Sergei sat under Dr. Blair's Bible teaching ministry. Shortly after hearing of his death, Mrs. Blair wrote this poem:

Like a strong, refreshing breath of air
Into our hearts and home he came;
His courage, his spirit, his love for our Lord—
Our lives shall not soon be the same.

Born to be free—
his spirit cried;
Born to love God—
For this he would have died.

From a little child, death was never far behind,
In orphanage, in famine and in war;
But none of these moved him—he set his mind
to reach higher, to succeed and more.

Achievement brought with it its own kind of power,
But it could not bring peace to the heart;
He yearned for a secret the believers possessed,
And found God's Word was a part.

Fearless he sought for a strange new life,
not knowing the path that he trod;
Neither counted he his life 'dear to himself';
it was clearly a gift from God.

From the edge of eternity to the edge of the shore—
'Twas God's miracle of love for that day;
But the greatest of all was the peace of soul
that made claim to the heart of Sergei.

This picture of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Blair and Sergei, was taken during the last week of Sergei's life, while he was a house guest in the Blair home.

But whate'er the Lord pleaseth
That doeth He—
In the heavens, the earth,
And the deep places of the sea.

As the oceans of water,
So man's heart is in His hand;
But the thunder of His mighty power
Who dares to understand?

He who suffers not the sparrow to fall
And numbers our every hair,
Is infinitely greater in love, by far
Than the most loving parents who care.

Father, help us to know that in your foreknowledge there
Even this is a part of Your plan;
So teach us to trust in your love even now,
When we cannot fully understand.

And Sergei—your laughter, your vibrant charm—
It was all such a part of you;
The hearts that you won, our adopted son,
They were 'legion' with each friend anew.

The song that you brought us is quieter now,
But somehow I feel that one day
We will hear it again, your own tongue perhaps,
"Preevett," "Welcome home! It's me, Sergei!"

A FITTING MEMORIAL TO SERGEI...

REACHING HIS PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST

Many have expressed a desire to share in a fitting memorial to Sergei and have already contributed to the establishment of such a fund.

It was not difficult to determine just what that memorial should be.

Sergei's oft-expressed love and concern for his people — both the Believers and the unsaved of Russia — led us to determine how the contributions being made in loving remembrance of this dedicated young servant of God should be used.

They should be devoted to reach Russia for Jesus Christ. Therefore, a Sergei Kourdakov Memorial Fund has been established. It is being designated for use to the end that Jesus Christ should be preached to millions behind the Iron Curtain in many ways: through distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature, gospel broadcasts, assistance to national workers and by whatever means Sergei's people might be reached, and the Lord he loved and served, glorified.

Should you wish to share in making Sergei's dream of reaching Russia with the gospel a reality, there are two things you can do: pray for Sergei's people and give that they might be reached for Jesus Christ.

Your contributions to the work of Christ in Russia, and given in loving memory of this stalwart young servant of His, may be addressed to: **Sergei Kourdakov Memorial Fund,** Underground Evangelism, P.O. Box 808, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053.

SERGEI
DEVOTED
CHRISTIAN

TESTIMONIALS

TO SERGEI'S CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT CONTINUE TO COME...

EXCERPTS FROM LETTER RELEASED BY GUIDEPOSTS MAGAZINE

"We were shocked to hear of Sergei Kourdakov's death since a number of the Guideposts staff had come to know this young Russian quite well. All were deeply impressed with his sincere Christian experience and his honest, effective witness for Jesus Christ in talks he gave throughout the country."

●

"But we do know that in the brief time Sergei was a Christian, his witness touched many lives. Our hope and prayer at Guideposts is that his life will continue to have a special meaning and that his Christian witness will be carried on."

●

"We thank God for Sergei Kourdakov and take comfort in knowing that he is with the One whom he so courageously served in his last year on earth."

Leonard E. LeSourd,
Editor

"... let's rejoice that God gave him everlasting life to be with Christ hereafter."

J.T., Edmonton, Alberta

"Thank God he was able to tell his story and it has been used to help me see more clearly that I must pray more and give what I can to help our brothers and sisters in Christ who are standing true to God and His Word amidst great suffering."

E.W., Stockton, Ca.

"Let us pray that his death will spur others to be faithful in underground evangelism."

S.B., Washington, D.C.

"I pray for you at Underground Evangelism, that God's message will shine through the darkness of this moment. Your special magazine has been a blessing to me. It represents God as strong, understanding, wise and everlasting. God is love, universal love. I hope you are able to continue with the message, we need it more than ever before."

M.P., N. Mankato, Minn.

"Thank you so much for allowing him to tell his story while he was with us. I know that he is with the Lord now." J.H.

A PICTURE FROM SHARON . . .

The above pencil drawing was done by Sharon Walker of Mars Hill, N.C. In her letter she said: "This is just my way of saying how much our dear brother in Christ, Sergei Kourdakov, and his living testimony have meant to me.

"I love to draw and I want to use this gift for God, who gave it to me."

BULLETIN UP-DATE

40,000 MORE BIBLES CAME OFF UE'S BIBLE PRESS IN MID-MARCH, 20,000 EACH FOR RUSSIA AND RUMANIA. THOUSANDS ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED FOR PRINTING SHORTLY

IN 1972 UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM, USING UE SPEAKERS AND OTHERS, BEAMED 1328 QUARTER-HOUR RADIO BROADCASTS INTO COMMUNIST LANDS

CLOSED CHURCHES SPEAK OF KREMLIN'S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RELIGIOUS FAITH

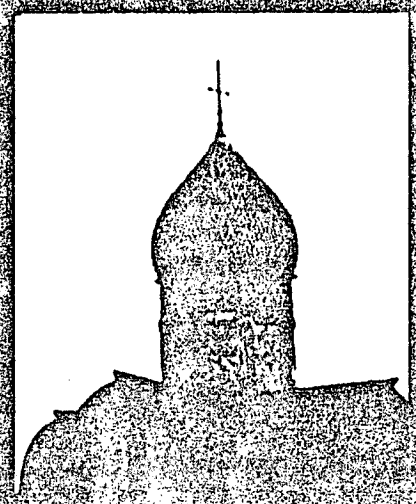
Bearing grim but eloquent testimony to the Kremlin's determination to purge "religion" from the land are these closed churches, typical of thousands throughout Russia.

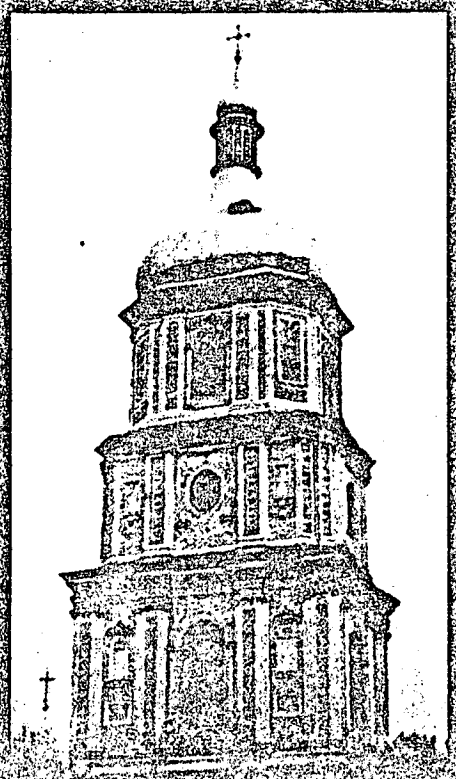
These churches in the Ukraine are all closed but still in fair repair. Most are either empty or being used as warehouses.

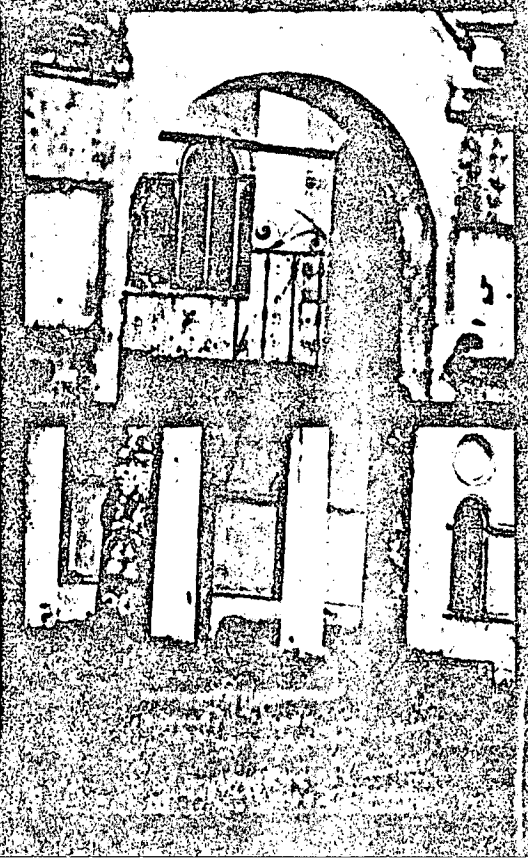
A pastor living inside Russia, speaking to Ken Taylor, the Living Bible paraphraser, confirmed the fact that only one evangelical church, the Moscow Baptist Church, is allowed in Moscow, a city of seven million people.

During the past several years thousands of churches like those shown here have been closed down by Kremlin efforts to stamp out faith in Russia.

Note that the cross of Christ, even on these closed churches, still stands on each — a mighty symbol of the church of Christ remaining untouched in the midst of militant atheism.







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DATE 3-16-11 BY 3486 alm/bcg/kc

PASTOR IMPRISONED

SERVING SIX-YEAR SENTENCE WHILE FAMILY SUFFERS ALONE

Shown here, in a family photo taken several years ago, is Believer R_ _ _ D . Recently he was sentenced to six long years in prison. His crime: serving as pastor of an underground church in the Ukraine.

As a result, Pastor D's children, shown in a more recent picture on the cover, and his wife, are presently undergoing very difficult times. Often they do not have enough to eat. They suffer persecution at the hands of others in their community, simply because their father and husband is imprisoned. The secret police watch them, and demand that the mother report to them regularly.

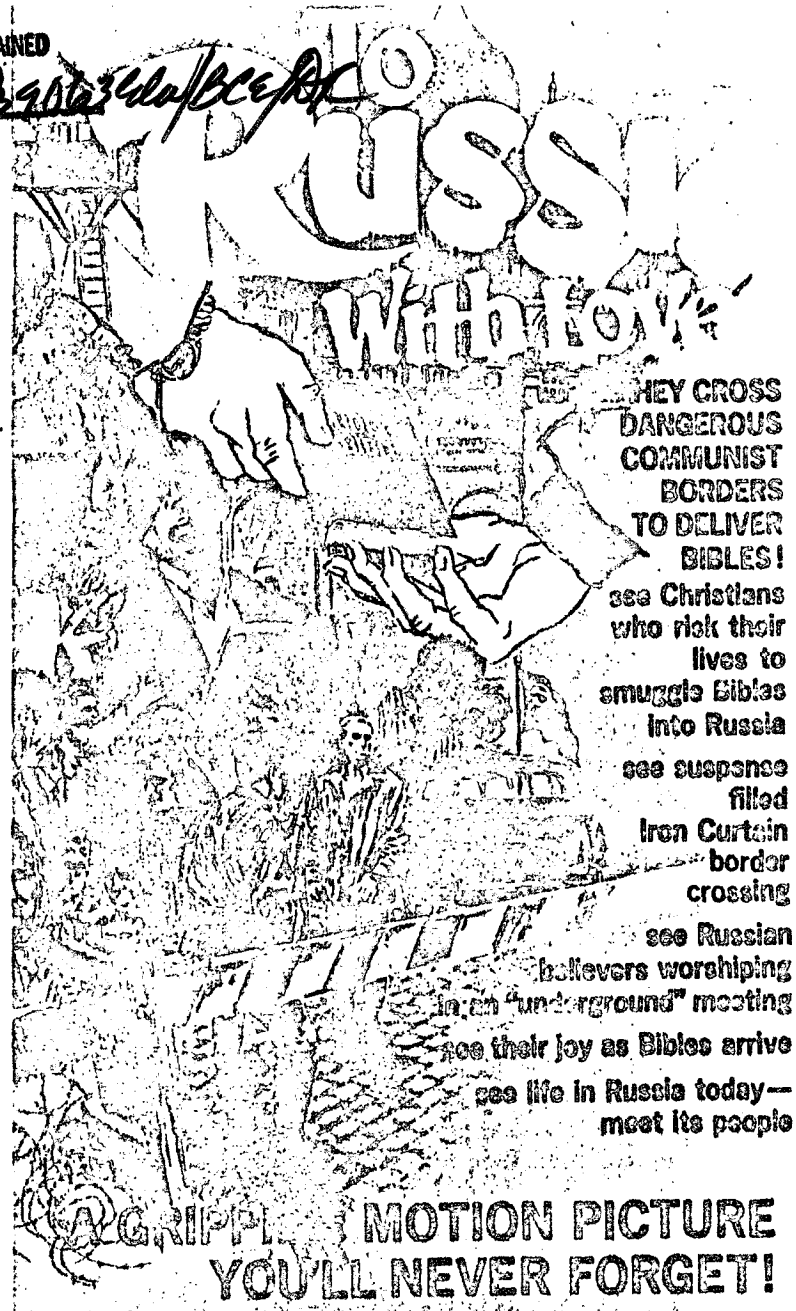
Because only a small part of Pastor D's sentence has been served, his family faces several more years of poverty and hardship. Their need is most desperate,and UE is seeking to find ways to help them.

This is not the first time this pastor has suffered for his faith. Yet he refused to deny his Lord, despite the danger, and continued carrying on his work until his arrest. It was a raid, such as those conducted by Sergei Kourdakov while he led an anti-Christian police attack squad in Russia, that brought about his trial and long prison sentence.

Though this family's future is very disheartening without husband and father, you and I can help to brighten it and ease some of their sufferings. We can pray and we can give.

Your dedicated offerings to the Lord, through UE's Christian Martyrs Relief Fund, can help Pastor D's family in their present desperate need.

And there are hundreds of other such persecuted families that we know of in Russia today. Your earnest prayer and dedicated giving will help greatly in easing their load.



A GRIPPI MOTION PICTURE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

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A U-E representative in your area will be pleased to work with you in preparation for a showing in your community.

SCHEDULE NOW FOR YOUR MEETINGS

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If not a Church, designate type of meeting _____

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UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM P.O. Box 808, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053

THE CHINESE ARE COMING!

SEE UE'S NEW FILM

COLOR MOTION PICTURE FROM UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM

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SEE INSIDE CHINA TODAY

LEARN HOW CHINA'S 800 MILLION PEOPLE WILL AFFECT YOUR FUTURE — AND WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW TO REACH THEM

The Chinese Are Coming is a must for Christians who are concerned about China — 800 million who have been denied God's Word since the Communist takeover.

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Please have the film representative in our area contact me as soon as showings can be scheduled. We are definitely interested.

Name_____

Address_____

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UNDERGROUND EVANGELICAL FILMS

P.O. Box 808, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053
P.O. Box 1296, Calgary 2, Alberta

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/16/93 BY SP2 AlW/bcg

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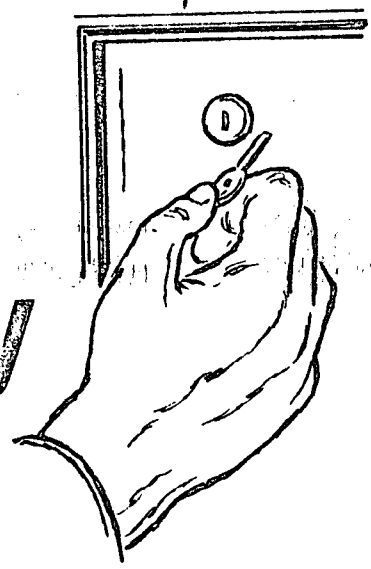

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UE473

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☐ a *free* Wills packet.

"USSR STEPS UP WAR ON CHURCH TO KEEP YOUTH IN LINE"

Headline, *Washington Post*
January 18, 1973

Marty Gunther, writing on current conditions in Russia in the *Washington Post*, points out that more and more Soviet youth are losing faith in their government and turning to the church for inspiration. As a result the Kremlin is renewing its attacks on all types of religion.

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Religious missions, conducted with Moscow's hearty approval, are designed to convey the erroneous message to the free world that Russians enjoy religious freedom.

Yet, despite Soviet pressures and artful conniving, "interest in religion," says the *Washington Post*, "continues to grow." And the Kremlin seems helpless to put it down.

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See opposite page for details.

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UNDERGROUND EVANGELISTIC FILMS

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P.O. Box 1296, Calgary 2, Alberta

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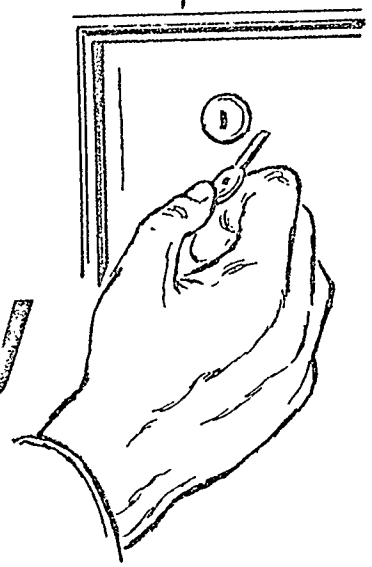

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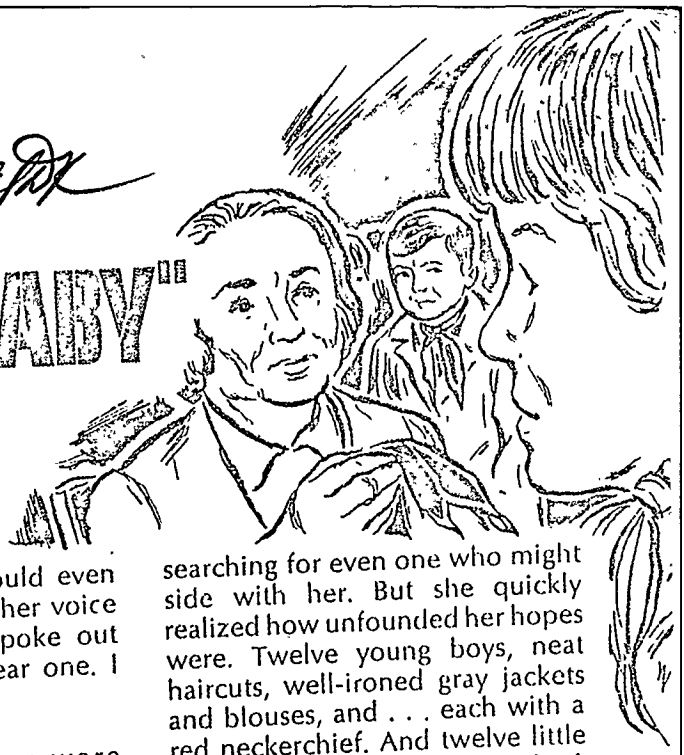
DATE 3/6/21 BY 390

A RUSSIAN "JESUS BABY" PAYS A PRICE



The True Story of a Young Russian Girl Who Chose to Pay the Consequences Rather Than Wear The "Badge" of Godless Communism.

"Kriger, stand up," barked Mariya Nikolay, sounding more like a hardened army sergeant than a sixth grade school teacher. "Look at yourself."

Olya trembled, as she obeyed.

"Now, Kriger," Mariya barked again, "look at the others — your fellow students. Do they look any different? Do you see anything in the way they're dressed?"

Olya made no response, and Mariya became more stern. "Nothing? You don't see any difference? Look again, Kriger."

Still, Olya made no verbal response, though her lips began to quiver.

"All right, Kriger," Mariya continued with her badgering. "Let's figure out what kind of place you are in, shall we? Kriger, this is a school, a Soviet school. It is not a house of worship. Do you understand?" She paused briefly, then spoke again, this time addressing the class. "Girls — and boys," she said, "this is Olya Kriger. She is a Believer. Did you hear that, children? This girl is a Believer."

All twenty-four pupils gasped as one. Then a ripple of laughter shot across the room.

As it died away, Mariya spoke again. "I recommend that you take her under your wing, children. I think she will look nice in a red neckerchief, too, don't you?"

But before anyone could even nod assent, Olya found her voice and her courage and spoke out firmly, "No! I won't wear one. I won't, I won't!"

Now the battle lines were drawn. On the one side, a big tough, veteran Communist teacher, supported by twenty-four sixth graders eager to vent their Communistic wrath against any non-conformist. On the other side, one lone Believer, determined never to compromise her stand for Jesus Christ.

Olya knew something of the cost of taking such a stand. She was well aware that just twenty-four red neckerchiefs in a room of twenty-five students would never be tolerated. And she knew the price of non-conformity would come high.

But Olya was a very determined little Believer. And she vowed to herself again that she would never wear the symbol of the Pioneers, intermediate youth group of the Communist Party.

Now that the challenge had been made, the children knew what their part in the brainwashing process would be. Gathering around Olya, they began to taunt her with cries of "Jesus Baby, Jesus Baby."

Olya looked hopefully into the faces of her fellow students, searching for even one who might side with her. But she quickly realized how unfounded her hopes were. Twelve young boys, neat haircuts, well-ironed gray jackets and blouses, and . . . each with a red neckerchief. And twelve little girls, each with a red neckerchief, too. Twelve red neckerchiefs and twelve more red neckerchiefs — twenty-four red neckerchiefs, in all, in a class of twenty-five students.

Until she gave in to the pressure of her peers, or until school authorities meted out punishment suited to a non-conformist, Olya would have no peace.

She came from a Believer family. Her father was not only a strong Christian but an ardent worker in his congregation, staunchly determined to stand true to the Lord at any personal cost. So, too, was his courageous little daughter.

Actually, it did not take long for Dushanbe School No. 6 to dispose of the case of Olya Kriger. Once, when she came into class, she was handed a red neckerchief and ordered to wear it. Realizing that to do so would prove a major compromise on her part, Olya threw the neckerchief right back on the teacher's table, declaring what she had vowed many times before: "I will not wear it. Never."

This time, they finally accepted her word, believing it useless to pursue their efforts further. And Olya Kriger, though only a young sixth grader, was forced out of school with no chance ever to return without denying her faith.

And that, it was apparent to all, this young Russian "Jesus Baby" would never do.

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This magazine is sent to Christians concerned about the persecution of believers behind the Iron Curtain. If you do not wish your name to continue on our mailing list, please mark X in the accompanying square ☐

TWO YOUNG RUSSIANS WHO LOVED GOD

Sergei Kourdakov

John Moiseyev

Please indicate number of items desired:

☐ **I AM YOUR BROTHER JOHN** booklet
Please send_____copies
(Suggested contribution: 25¢ each)

☐ **SERGEI.** Large, colorful life-story brochure.
Please send_____copies
(Suggested contribution: 20¢ each)

☐ **THE SERGEI KOURDAKOV STORY** on cassette tape. His thrilling testimony in his own words.
Please send_____tapes.
(Suggested contribution: $4.00 each)

Please send the above checked items. I enclose my contribution of $_____for the ministry of Underground Evangelism.

Please print:

Name

Address

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UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 808, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053
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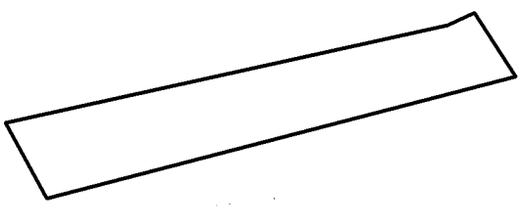
Read about them and hear one of them in person on cassette tape. Choose from these thrilling testimonials.

- I AM YOUR BROTHER JOHN
  The touching and challenging story of Russia's 20-year-old martyr. 16-page booklet with pictures.
- SERGEI
  A colorful brochure telling the amazing story of how this courageous young Russian defector, once a persecutor of Christians, came to know and serve Jesus Christ.
- SERGEI on tape
  Thrill to remarkable testimony from his own lips.

A WORD ABOUT SERGEI'S BOOK

Some of our readers are under the impression that because of Sergei's untimely death, his book was not finished. We are happy to report that the story was completed and was in final editing some time before Sergei's homegoing. To us, and you, too, we're sure, this again proves how great and wonderful is our God.

The book is scheduled for release later in 1973. We will announce its publication in these pages.



b7E

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Acting Director, FBI [redacted] DATE: 4-23-73 b7E

FROM : SAC, Seattle [redacted] (RUC)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-01 BY 39063 EW/BCE/DK

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 3-9-73.

Enclosed herewith for Los Angeles are four copies of a publication entitled "Underground Evangelism." Also enclosed is a copy of a leaflet entitled "Russia's Counterfeit Church."

It is noted that the interview with Reverend WILLIAM GIESA DORSING was very disjointed as he would take off on some aspect on his church activities, and it was difficult to get a straight answer from him regarding the material allegedly available in the Bellingham and Washington State area that was pertinent to instant matter.

The following investigation was conducted at Acme, Washington, by Special Agent [redacted] b6 b7C

On 4-16-73 Reverend WILLIAM GIESA DORSING, W/M/A; DOB 12-21-06; POB Greenview, Illinois; mailing address Post Office Box 97, Acme, Washington; home address 5217 Turkington Road, Acme, Washington, advised he is an ordained minister with the Assembly of God Church. He stated he does not have a congregation and is currently an evangelist engaged in film in literature evangelism [redacted] b7E

REC-23

He stated that he first heard of the subject's death from Assembly of God ministers in Canada. He stated that he has no real evidence pertaining to the circumstances of the subject's death, and in short, he has nothing to contribute to this case other than his own opinions and conclusions based upon his readings of religious literature.

23 APR 27 1973

2 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles (Enclosures 5)
1 - Seattle

54 MAY 4 1973

RST/ksw
(5)

FBI

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5010-108

[redacted] b7E

He stated that from his readings he has learned the subject left behind with responsible people the word that if he was ever found dead, supposedly as a result of suicide, do not believe it. This word was left with Reverend [redacted] First Assembly of God Church, Portland, Oregon, and Reverend [redacted] Assembly of God Church, Denver, Colorado. He stated that he and his fellow brethern firmly believe that the subject was "picked off" by the Russian KGB. b6 b7C

DORSING described himself as a "watchman" and believed it is his duty to tell those behind him of the approach of the enemy, namely Communism at work.

DORSING went on to advise that he, himself, had been the northwestern representative of "Underground Evangelism" for 25 months, but he has resigned because he couldn't serve both this organization and the Assembly of God Church. He personally feels the "Underground Evangelism" is a worthwhile organization and furnished the following statement issued by the higher authorities in the Assembly of God Church Headquarters at Springfield, Missouri:

> "For some time, publications have been circulated among the ministers of our district concerning 'Underground Evangelism'. This is a program that reportedly ministers behind the Iron Curtain countries of Eastern Europe. After several conferences in the office, and receiving information by letters from other parts of the country, as well as consideration at the Northwest District World Missions Committee level, and meeting of the District Presbytery, it has been decided that we should communicate with you to the effect that we discourage raising financial support for this program. The Foreign Missions Department Executive confirms to us that the Assembly of God already has contact in these countries and is conducting a vigerous program of evangelism. In light of this, we feel it is in keeping with our Assembly of God policy that Assembly of God money should go for related purposes. Over these other projects,

[redacted]

b7E

there is no administrative control, and therefore, we strongly urge you to channel any interest in European Evangelism, both in the Free Countries and behind the Iron Curtain, through Assembly of God channels. It is encouraging to our missionaries who are working in these areas to know that our people in the homeland are standing behind the work they are doing."

DORSING provided four copies of the "Underground Evangelism" which contain articles showing how the Russian Police oppress religion and a copy of a leaflet entitled "Russia's Counterfeit Church."

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-23-2014 by: J75J65T61

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 1.1-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 4/26/73 b7E

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE [redacted] (RUC)

SECRET

SUBJECT: CHANGED
SERGEY NIKOLAY KURDAKOV, aka
Kourdakov
IS - R
Kurdakov, Sergey

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/16/01 BY 39063 dlw/BCE/jdk

00: Los Angeles

Title is being marked changed to reflect additional English spellings of the name of subject.

Reference Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated 3/9/73; Seattle letter dated 3/19/73; Bureau letter to Seattle dated 4/5/73; Seattle letter to the Bureau dated 4/16/73.

Attached herewith for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above with appropriate copies for receiving offices.

Bureau instructed Seattle in referenced Bureau letter dated April 5, 1973, to report translation material in LHM, which Seattle has done, including the original newspaper item concerning KURDAKOV's death submitted by Los Angeles with its letter dated March 9, 1973

Seattle is not including any data furnished by Seattle in our letter dated April 16, 1973, and this is being left to the discretion of the Bureau as to whether it desires Los Angeles to take any further action in this matter.

CLASSIFIED BY 3906 3 dlw/BCE/jdk
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1

ENCLOSURE

EX-109
REC-73

2 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (REG)
2 - Los Angeles [redacted] (Enc. 2) (REG)
1 - Sacramento (Info) (Enc. 1) (REG)
1 - San Francisco (Info) (Enc. 1) (REG)
2 - Seattle
RHC:jlb
(8)

25 APR 30 1973

MCT-40

b7E

SECRET

[redacted] ~~SECRET~~ b7E

Since Seattle did not mention [redacted] in the LHM b7D
it is not being classified.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

Bureau may desire to disseminate two copies of the LHM to [redacted] noting that KURDAKOV defected in Canada and resided there a short time before coming to the United States. (U) (S) b7D

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Seattle, Washington
April 26, 1973

RE: SERGEY NIKOLAY KURDAKOV, also known as Kourdakov
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

The Los Angeles "Times" daily newspaper dated March 2, 1973, contained an article captioned "Death of Russian Defector Ruled an Accident at Inquest." The article is set forth as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/16/01 BY 39063 dlw/bcg/sk

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

b7E

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

Death of Russian Defector Ruled an Accident at Inquest

BY ROBERT JONES
Times Staff Writer

A coroner's jury ruled Thursday in San Bernardino that the shooting death of Russian defector Sergei Kourdakov was accidental, the result of his mishandling a borrowed .38-caliber pistol.

The final day of the inquest came after a one-week postponement ordered when an Indiana congressman telephoned the coroner's office Feb. 22 with "new information" concerning Kourdakov's death.

After the call from Rep. Earl F. Landgrebe, San Bernardino County Coroner William Hill said the information, if true, contradicted other testimony and ordered an investigation.

On Thursday, however, San Bernardino sheriff's detectives discounted the new evidence, saying Landgrebe's sources had "no information at all."

Body Found in Cabin

Controversy has surrounded the circumstances of Kourdakov's death since New Year's Day, when he was found dead of a head wound in a mountain cabin near San Bernardino.

Kourdakov apparently went to the resort area to spend the weekend with a friend, Ann Johnson, 17. Miss Johnson testified at the inquest that she was present in a motel room when Kourdakov raised the gun to his head and it went off. The gun had been borrowed from Miss Johnson's father, she said.

Sheriff's detectives listed the death as a probable accident, but a religious group that had sponsored Kourdakov on a lecture circuit raised the possibility that he was murdered by Russian agents.

L. Joe Bass, president of Underground Evangelism, said the young defector once told him, "If you ever hear I have had an accident or committed suicide, don't believe it. I know how the Soviet police work . . ." Bass' group also sent out mailings that mentioned "unanswered questions" in the shooting.

Linked to Request

On Thursday, Hill said Underground Evangelism was also connected to Landgrebe's request for the one-week postponement and investigation.

The basis of the request, Hill said, was information from two of Landgrebe's constituents claiming they had been told by an officer of Underground Evangelism during a fund-raising benefit that Kourdakov was indeed murdered by Russian agents.

After passing along the informa-

tion, the officer then asked for contributions, the persons said. "They left no stone unturned to capitalize on his death," one constituent wrote. She had doubts about both the group and Kourdakov, she said, because "if he was a born-again Christian, why was he shacked up with that girl?"

The officer of Underground Evangelism, Kenneth Boughman, later denied to San Bernardino sheriff's detectives that he had claimed Kourdakov was murdered and denied having any knowledge of such an occurrence.

"He said he had no information at all," said Det. James Cox, who later concluded that "there was no indication of foul play" in Kourdakov's death.

Kourdakov, 21, gained note in 1971 when he jumped from a Russian trawler and swam to the British Columbia coast in a 20-hour ordeal.

Bass later signed him to a contract under which Kourdakov toured church groups telling his story. A bill was introduced in Congress last year by Landgrebe to grant Kourdakov permanent U.S. residence.

Critics of Underground Evangelism have said that by distracting attention from the circumstances of Kourdakov's death the group hoped to create a martyr—and quick financial profits—from the incident.

On Thursday, however, Bass told coroner's jurors that his doubts over Kourdakov's death "had been greatly answered" by the inquest investigation.

RE: SERGEY NIKOLAY KURDAKOV

Various Russian language newspapers have commented concerning the death of KURDAKOV and summaries of the data of such articles are set forth hereinafter.

The Russian language newspaper "Our Days" dated Wednesday, January 17, 1973, contained an article captioned "Who is the Killer?"

This article cited a report from the Los Angeles "Times" of January 11, 1973, concerning the death of SERGEY KURDAKOV, a Soviet defector who "turned to God." The article quotes KURDAKOV as stating that if anyone ever hears he had died in an accident or committed suicide, they should not believe this, implying that he may become a victim of "secret Soviet organs."

An article captioned "The Kremlin Mafia Strides Through the World" dated February 3, 1973, in the newspaper "Russian Life" was in memory of SERGEY KURDAKOV, a "victim of Soviet terror" authored by ANATOLY SKRIPKIN.

This article was a diatribe against crimes committed by the Soviets abroad, such as political assassinations, kidnaping, espionage, blackmail, etc., all of which "have roots in the foreign sections of the Kremlin Mafia in the free world." The writer believed the so-called "suicide" of SERGEY KURDAKOV was one of such political murders.

An article in the newspaper "Russian Life" (not dated) by A. DELIANICH, outlined the story of the supposed suicide of KURDAKOV, expressing regret that the case was so lightly dismissed by the press and authorities. It was indicated "Russian Life" was one of the first to warmly support KURDAKOV following his escape from a Soviet vessel and corresponded with him; it promised to help him arrange an anti-communist talk in San Francisco in the near future.

It said the people who knew him, felt he would never end his life by suicide, being a man of strong will and persistent character, who made firm decisions and adhered to them. He was happy, because he was free and had found a new purpose in life.

The writer concluded by saying that there was a strong belief on the part of those who knew him that he was murdered and they desired that the authorities would treat the case differently. It was stated "there were too many similar

cases before, both in West Germany and in the United States. We should take steps in this direction and we are doing it," said the writer.

An article captioned "The End of the Road" from the newspaper "Our Days" dated January 10, 1973, reported the known details of KURDAKOV's accidental death, and mentioned the fact that when KURDAKOV was recently in Toronto, Canada, two unidentified individuals nearly succeeded in pushing him under the wheels of an oncoming car and it was stated he had been receiving many anonymous threats lately.

All of the above articles were in Russian and Ukrainian language newspapers and the summaries were taken from a translation into English.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 5/9/73 b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Re telephone conversation of Supervisor EUGENE C. PETERSON, FBI Headquarters with Los Angeles on 4/6/73.

On 5/7/73 [redacted] Chief Deputy Coroner, b6 b7C
San Bernardino County Coroner's Office, San Bernardino, California, advised that to his knowledge the documents belonging to subject at the time of his death have not yet been returned from the Congressional Committee in Washington, D. C. Coroner [redacted] was not available on this date.

Los Angeles will maintain contact with the above coroner's office and will forward the documents to the Bureau when they become available.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 34063 edw/BCE/dk

b7E

REC-26 [redacted]

EX-101

1 MAY 14 1973

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/JEB
(4)

MAY 23 1973

5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC, Seattle [redacted] May 17, 1973 b7E

Acting Director, FBI [redacted]

SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3-16-01 BY 39163 dmw/bce/pk

Attached is a portion of the translation which you requested by letter dated 4/16/73.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is retained until completion of translation.

Enc. (2)

1 - Los Angeles [redacted] - Enc. b7E
1 - Sacramento - Enc.
1 - San Francisco - Enc.
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller (Attn: CI-1), sent direct with enclosure

TN:kmm
(7)

EX-105
REC 43

19 MAY 18 1973

ENCLOSURE

MAILED 5
MAY 17 1973
FBI

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Herwig
Mintz
Mr. Neenan

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SUMMARY FROM RUSSIAN

* * *

Article "Faithful Witness of the Lord" from the publication, "Persecuted Church."

The article consists of the text of an appeal addressed to A.A. Grechko, Minister of the Armed Forces of the USSR, and L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the UN, International Committee on Human Rights, etc., from the relatives of Ivan V. Moiseev, who "died in tortures for preaching faith in God among the ranks of the Soviet Army."

The appeal cites the facts in chronological order and requests investigation and discovery of the criminals who caused the death of the young soldier.

* * *

Other testimonials citing cases of religious persecutions in the USSR appear in the same issue.

* * *

A statement at the end of the issue says that the publication "Persecuted Church" is printed in English, Russian and Ukrainian languages and would be sent to the interested persons for a voluntary contribution. The purpose of the "Voice of Salvation" (publishers of the magazine) is to preach Gospel in the communist countries and in the free world through dissemination of the Scriptures, radio broadcasts and recordings, "to bring aid to the persecuted for their faith and to inform the free world about the persecuted Church." The organization appeals for contributions, to carry on this work.

SUMMARIZED BY: [redacted]:jah

May 16, 1973

[redacted]

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b7C
b7E

ENCLOS[illegible]

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 6/29/73 b7E

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated 5/9/73.

On 6/29/73 [redacted] Coroner of San Bernardino b6 b7C
County, San Bernardino, California, advised that the documents in subject's possession at the time of his death are still maintained at the Internal Security Subcommittee in Washington, D. C. [redacted] stated he was originally advised that these documents would be returned to him but he does not know when this will occur.

Los Angeles will maintain contact with [redacted] b6 b7C
office and will forward the documents to the Bureau when they become available.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 34063 Elw/BCE/pst

[redacted] b7E

ST-100

REC-50 22 JUL 2 1973

Bureau (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

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(4)

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10 JUL 10 1973

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-01

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 8/30/73 b7E

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS-R
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated 6/29/73.

On 8/30/73 efforts were made to contact [redacted] b6 b7C Coroner of San Bernadino County, San Bernardino, California in order to obtain the documents which were in Subject's possession at the time of his death. When last contacted, [redacted] advised that these documents were still maintained at the Internal Security Subcommittee in Washington, D.C. It was determined that [redacted] was not available due to illness. [redacted] Assistant to [redacted], advised that after checking with [redacted] secretary, he determined that the above documents have not yet been returned from Washington, D.C.

Los Angeles will maintain contact with the San Bernadino County Coroner's Office and will forward the documents to the Bureau when they become available.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/16/01 BY 39063 Elw/BEP/lr

STAT

b7E

REC-38 [redacted]

SEP 5 1973

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/pwj

SEP 10 1973

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-103

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 11/1/73 b7E

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS-R
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated 8/30/73.

On instant date efforts were made to contact [redacted] Coroner of San Bernadino County, San Bernadino, California in order to obtain the documents which were in the possession of Subject at the time of his death. [redacted] Assistant to [redacted] advised that [redacted] would be out of the office until the following week. [redacted] stated that to his knowledge, the above documents have not yet been returned from Washington, D.C. b6 b7C

Los Angeles will maintain contact with the above office and will forward the documents to the Bureau when they become available.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/16/01 BY 39063 Edw/BCE/DK

EX-105

REC-[redacted]

17 NOV 5 1973

b7E

(2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/pwj
(5)

55 NOV 12 1973

FIVE

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 12/14/73 b7E

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (P)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS - R
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated 11/1/73.

On 12/12/73, [redacted] Deputy Coroner, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, California, was contacted and he stated that to his knowledge the documents which were in the possession of subject at the time of his death have not yet been returned from Washington, D. C. b6 b7C

Los Angeles will maintain contact with the above coroner's office in order to obtain the documents for forwarding to the Bureau when they are made available.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 34063 Ed/BCE/SK

[redacted] b7E

REC-56

5 DEC 18 1973

EX-111

(2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Los Angeles

PWJ/JEB
(4)

5 DEC 21 1973

5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 1/31/74 b7E

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES [redacted] (C)

SUBJECT: SERGEI NIKOLAY KOURDAKOV, aka
IS-R
OO: Los Angeles

930376
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-01 BY 34963 ALW/BCE/DK

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated 12/14/73.

On 1/31/74 [redacted] Deputy Coroner, b6 b7C
San Bernadino County, San Bernadino, California advised that the papers which were in the possession of Subject at the time of his death have not yet been returned from Washington, D.C.

A review of instant file shows that contact has been maintained with the San Bernadino County Coroner's Office since May, 1973 regarding the return of the above papers from the Internal Security Subcommittee in Washington. D.C. Coroner [redacted] of San Bernadino has advised b6 b7C
that he has no knowledge as to when these papers will be returned to his office. [redacted] has previously advised that [redacted] of Senator STROM THURMOND's Subcommittee on Internal Security advised him [redacted] that these papers of the Subject dealt with a story the Subject was writing at the time of his death, and contained no information of an internal security nature.

Inasmuch as there is no projected date for the return of these papers and since no additional information has been received indicating that these papers are of an intelligence interest, Los Angeles does not feel that further efforts to obtain these papers are warranted. Accordingly, this matter is being placed in closed status UACB. b7E

REC-38 [redacted]

6 FEB 4 1974

2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Los Angeles

PWJ/pwj
(3)

F-334

FEB 11 1974

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan